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## Paper puts 3000 poly, college jobs in danger

by Karen Gold

National Advisory Body group members this week fought off an apparent attempt by the Department of Education and Science to impose staff: student ratios on all polytechnics and colleges, which would mean the loss of 3000 jobs.

The NAB Technical and Data Group insisted that a DES paper calculating the difference between actual ratios and those recommended by Her Majesty's Inspectorate last year was a policy matter and should be postponed for the NAB board to consider next week.

The paper says only three institutions - Sheffield and Plymouth polytechnics and Hertfordshire College of Building - are at or above the ratios calculated and recommended by the inspectorate last year.

It compares those with the ratios in institutions in the 1982/83 academic year. It calculates for all polytechnics, major colleges and other colleges doing considerable advanced work how many posts would have to go by 1985 in order to meet the HMI ratios.

Despite the increase in student numbers over that period, the paper says that the overall cut in lecturing staff in polytechnics would have to be 9 per cent, and in major colleges 17 per cent. That would mean a loss of 2,396 posts from the two groups.

By estimating the jobs to go in small colleges, and making an allowance for full-cost students who were not included in the 1982/83 figures, the department calculates that another 600 posts would go, making it 3,000 in all.

The paper lists figures for the implied reduction in staff for almost 100 institutions. The HMI recommends that polytechnics move to an average staff:student ratio of 11.7:1, although the actual ratios calculated by the DES in

its table vary quite a lot from that. City of London is the lowest at 12.7:1 and Leicester is the highest at 11.2:1.

The polytechnics have less far to go than the major colleges, the paper says, since their ratios in 1982 were generally higher, but they are expected to move to an average 12:1.

The biggest job losses are not always among the expected institutions. North East London Polytechnic is near the top with 116.5 jobs to go, but North London is even higher with 149.6 losses. The overall loss of jobs in London would be considerable, since three other London polytechnics - South Bank, City of London and Central London - are all near the top, with 89.2, 99 and 80.5 losses respectively.

The London art colleges would also lose 84.6 posts. Three polytechnics would need extra staff because of their increased student numbers - Birmingham, Plymouth and Preston. But others which have taken large increases in student numbers would still lose some posts, for example Teesside faces 18.

Other institutions which would lose large numbers are Leeds, Trent, and Bristol polytechnics - 112.1, 80.3 and 69.8 respectively. Bradford and Ilkley College, would lose 77.5, Derbyshire College of Higher Education 64.3, and the London College of Printing 56.3.

The figures do have two caveats attached. First the NAB target numbers exclude overseas students paying full-cost fees and short course students, so even institutions operating on recommended ratios overall would appear to be better staffed than in these tables. Secondly, since the recommended ratios are calculated by adding up those recommended by subject specialist HMIs, the total figure for each institution is not quite as accurate as the subject figures.



## Sir Keith wants more say in v-cs' survey

by Ngaio Crequer

Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education and Science, has told vice-chancellors to think again on two crucial aspects of their proposed efficiency survey in the universities.

Sir Keith, who was given details of the vice-chancellors' proposals at a meeting last week, said he was sticking on two points. He wanted Government involvement in the composition of the survey teams and a much wider scope for the inquiries.

The Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals has always insisted in its talks with ministers and officials that although it is prepared to carry out the efficiency inquiry, it should be independent of the Government.

But the signs are that they are now prepared to concede the point, in order that their scheme becomes acceptable. It has been made clear that refusal to do Sir Keith's bidding would result in reduced funding.

What officials have in mind is representation of the Government's efficiency unit on the survey teams. The CVCP wanted the teams to consist of

just university officers and independent consultants, with University Grants Committee support.

The efficiency unit is a seven-strong team in the Cabinet Office. It reports to the Prime Minister through Sir Robin Bibb, her adviser on efficiency.

It is currently carrying out two inquiries across six Government departments - looking at support services for administrative work, consultancy, inspection and review capabilities.

The insistence on a wider scope for the reviews may be a question of definition. The CVCP has said the surveys must not question teaching and research but accept that they can look at management systems.

The Department of Education and Science says this means they must be able to question decisions about the allocation of resources. This obviously strays into academic decisions.

Officials from the DES and the CVCP will meet in the next couple of weeks to agree the final structure of the reviews. The CVCP is also now looking for someone to head the steering group that will supervise the reviews.

## Laser research complex faces closure threat

by Jon Turney  
Science Correspondent

This year's budget debate in the Science and Engineering Research Council has produced a serious threat to a multi-million pound laser research complex used by over 100 university researchers.

The council's science board has looked at upper and lower financial guidelines for 1985/86 and concluded that imposition of the lower guideline would mean closing the £2m-a-year central laser facility at the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory in Oxfordshire.

Each of the four SERC boards has been instructed to offer plans on two guidelines. The upper limit for the science board is roughly level funding and the lower limit means a 2 per cent cut.

The laser facility is widely recognized as generating first class research in plasma physics and the behaviour of matter under intense energy bombardment, and has attracted important international collaborators. Some council members regard the threat to close the facility as unnecessarily provocative, but members of the science board argue that there is no other comparable saving open to them.

They argue that the other large science board facilities - the synchrotron radiation source at Daresbury and the spallation neutron source at Rutherford - are even more impor-

tant. The neutron source, which came under threat two years ago, will not be ready for users until late this year and cost nearly £50m to build.

The only other option would be to cut university research grants and studentships, the science boards argues. It wants to increase grant support, in common with the other boards.

If the overall council budget remains level, forcing through the lower guideline for any individual board will depend on the council's judgment of the bids each board has made for extra funds. Here, the science board is seeking substantial increases for university grants and for research in solid-state physics for the new kinds of microchips - known as work on "low-dimensional structures".

The astronomy, space and radio board, which faces cuts of £2m next year in any case, wants assurances of funding for a new UK-led space mission later in the 1980s. The engineering board wants approval for a new effort in manufacturing automation, as well as having to find extra money to meet the council's commitment to the Alvey programme for computer research.

The council has contingency funds for new developments of £6m in 1985/86 and £9m in 1986/87, but most of this is likely to be used to relieve pressure on university work. The rejection rate for grants placed in the top category by referees is now nearing 50 per cent.



Pamela Horn dispels nostalgia about English country life, 15

## Debate 'a smokescreen' says Labour Party

Government figures on student demand mean either the closure of several universities and polytechnics, or the closing down of whole departments, Labour Party spokesmen said yesterday.

In a joint statement Mr Giles Radice, Labour's chief education spokesman and Mr Andrew Bennett, spokesman for higher education, called upon vice-chancellors and polytechnic directors to speak up loud and clear about the implications of Government figures.

They said that the debate on the future of higher education was "no more than a propaganda smokescreen

to disguise their intention to contract the system."

They released an open letter to Mr Christopher Ball, of the National Advisory Body, and Sir Peter Swinnerton-Dyer, chairman of the University Grants Committee to say that in the past higher education had been for the "educationally well-fed". In future there must be wider opportunities and security of funding and the case for higher education must be made.

The Labour Party has also published its replies to the UGC and NAB questionnaires on future strategy. They want radical changes in the admissions policies to open institutes

up to less traditional groups, replacing A levels.

For the universities some first degrees should become more broadly based, combining arts, sciences and social sciences. The bias against research in the social sciences should be reversed.

There should be no essential differences in the teaching functions of universities and polytechnics. The UGC should be replaced with a Universities Council, with two tiers, a policy committee and academic committee, and an independent secretariat shared with NAB. There should be a comprehensive approach.

A new economic study rubs the gloss off the much-lauded Cambridge University science park. The study finds that firms in the park have few more academic research links than other, similar firms in the region, and that the park has made little contribution to local employment.

The findings come from work by Barry Moore of the Cambridge University department of applied economics and Rodney Spies of Cambridge City Council's planning department. Their report for the Paris-based Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) went one better than most studies of science parks by comparing the park with other sites in the region.

They found that only 24 per cent of the 25 firms on the science park opened in 1973 on a site owned by Trinity College had research links with the university. This compared with 19 per cent of other companies in the region, itself an unusually high figure.

On employment, the authors concluded that it was likely as many jobs would have been created without the park development by firms attracted to Cambridge for other reasons. And their evidence suggested that the new companies on the Trinity site offered fewer jobs to local residents than other

firms because they had more employees with specialist skills recruited outside the region.

With around 50 other science parks planned or under development in Britain, the Cambridge findings are significant because in most respects the Cambridge science park fits the mold first established in the US.

Most of the firms on the Trinity are science and research based, making high-technology products with a well-qualified workforce. But it is clear that proximity to university was not their main reason for renting space on the site. In fact, many firms had research links in UK regions as were doing work with the university. The researchers conclude that if firms need research they will go out and find the right people with distance no object.

While many companies sited the attractive environment as a reason for their choice of Cambridge, the study suggests that special low-density developments like the science park are probably unnecessary. And the authors conclude that "conventional industrial development would have produced three times as many jobs for local people" compared with the Cambridge science park.





# Letters to the editor

## Utilitarian view of education

Sir, — Alan Wilson's "radical framework" for a multi-disciplinary degree (THES, February 10) betrays both a worrying level of ignorance about what has been achieved in this area over the past decade, and a set of assumptions about the nature and purpose of higher education that are disturbing.

It is not true to claim that existing multi-disciplinary degrees are cobbled together from elements of single discipline programmes, although this may be the case for many university joint honours degrees. Nor is the second premise, that multi-disciplinary degrees are unpopular and undemanding, true. Again, in many of the universities where the single discipline reigns supreme, structurally present in their departmental organization, and where no external accountability for course design and curriculum exists, this may be so. Students on such courses however often have to work extra hard to meet the requirements of competing rather than cooperative departments, they undertake courses whose design is influenced more by administrative convenience than academic coherence, and if they are

seen to lack the "hard" knowledge and skills of their single-honours peers this is all too often a self-fulfilling prophecy.

By contrast, in the maintained sector, a large number of multi and inter-disciplinary courses have been designed and successfully taught since the mid-1970s. Their popularity may be judged by the 2000 students who have so far graduated from the Oxford Polytechnic modular degree alone. The Council of National Academic Awards interfaculty studies board was set up specifically to validate and monitor on behalf of the council courses crossing sciences, social sciences and humanities. It probably represents the widest existing pool of knowledge and experience of the issues raised by Professor Wilson, yet he seems unaware of it. The work of the interfaculty board and of the institutions launching such multidisciplinary degrees suggests that far more than pious hopes and a finely-tuned curriculum concepts are necessary for their successful operation. Most of them have involved innovative management and counselling structures as well as detailed thought and experiment on

progression and balance of theory, method, example, core themes and disciplinary options, modes of assessment and appropriate teaching methods. If anything has been learned it is that a blueprint for such a course simply does not exist; incremental advance from existing best practice is a better model.

But Professor Wilson's article worries me far more than this apparent ignorance of developments in multidisciplinary higher education. He writes in the terminology and with the concepts of systems theory. The curriculum is built of "foundational studies", "general" and "substantive" systems, traditional disciplinary concerns become "systems of interest" and the new degrees must not be "soft" when compared to single honours courses. This is the language of a "hard" machine, technology, of cybernetics and management. It is not the language of a critical but humane scholarship but speaks of a narrowly utilitarian view of higher education. The view becomes explicit towards the end of the article: "such courses would probably be much more use to industry than conventional ones". The humanities be-

come a sort of cultural veneer for the scientist rather than disciplines making their own rigorous intellectual demands, not a surprising view from an author who expects English to supply students with "writing skills". If higher education is to be regarded as technical training then this scheme may offer an inoffensive initial doodle, if it is to offer more to its students and teachers, then the assumptions upon which this blueprint rests are dangerously narrow.

Has it, I wonder, occurred to the professor of urban and regional geography that geography, unrefined, has always been able to offer a range of concepts, skills, theories and methods which make it potentially a multi-disciplinary degree in its own right? He will doubtless be aware of the problems of constructing a coherent and unified curriculum within geography, to cross other disciplines in addition increases those problems factorially.

Yours sincerely,  
DENIS E. COSGROVE  
University of Technology,  
Loughborough.

## Breaking down

Sir, — It has come to our notice that the travelling workshops experiment, originally funded by the British Library, is encountering financial problems which are preventing it from realising its full potential.

As some of your readers will know, the experiment investigated bibliographic education and, after extensive research in a large number of institutions of higher education, produced a series of learning packages on sources of information. At the end of the project Newcastle upon Tyne Polytechnic assumed responsibility for the funding, preparation and sale of further packages.

Our own experience of TWE is limited to one series of history workshops which we ran recently as part of this college's combined studies (hons) degree. These workshops were based on the package *British history, 1700-1960*, compiled by Professor Norman McCord and Sue Lacey and published in 1979. They were highly successful and consequently the staff concerned would have liked to run similar TWE workshops in other subjects. We were, therefore, disappointed to discover that there are now only three packages available, none of which relates to subjects studied in this college. Moreover, we understand that for financial reasons there are no plans either to create new packages or to update the two (history and biology) that have recently been withdrawn. The loss of these is not only unfortunate on educational grounds but also represents a failure to exploit fully the work (and investment) that went into their creation.

It is clear to us that the learning packages have considerable value for higher education. However it seems unreasonable to expect any single polytechnic, especially in the present economic climate, to provide the finance that would be required for the commercial sale. We suggest, therefore, that the British Library, as funder of the original project and copyright holder, should evaluate the existing existing policy, create a users' group to institute a programme for development. This could, perhaps, include the creation of a Centre for Graphic Education.

Yours faithfully,  
NICK DREW  
Tutor Librarian,  
TERENCE RODGERS  
Lecturer in history,  
Bath College of Higher Education.

## Bogus subjects

Sir, — What can be said against the bogus subject of parapsychology — as in your admirable leading article (THES, February 17) — can be said against the equally bogus subject of theology. Many years ago, Russell suggested "it is undesirable to believe a proposition

## Soviet justice

Sir, — May one hope that the new president of the USSR will use his authority to set right some of the injustices perpetrated under his predecessor?

One case which should be of particular concern to the academic community is that of Professor Yuli Kagaritsky, a leading specialist in English and comparative literature. Professor Kagaritsky, who is internationally known for his work on drama and on science fiction, is a vice president of the H. G. Wells Society and an honorary member of the Science Fiction Research Association.

## Moral tale

Sir, — David Berry's article on philosophy and feminism (THES, February 10) provokes a thought. Three of the philosophers mentioned there — Elizabeth Anscombe, Philippa Foot and Mary Warnock — were, along with Iris Murdoch, of my own generation, reading Greats at Oxford early in the last war. Things were then a bit peculiar. There was no rat-race; there seemed words looked rather unimportant.

The few men undergraduates around — mostly conscientious objectors, ordinands or the physically unfit — were not a lot more interested than we were in the game of amazingly clever performances and put-downs which so often wrecks philosophy. And among the few overworked dons who taught us there were some — in particular Donald MacKinnon, tutor to three of us — who were as far as possible from the sick, arrogant, more or less logical-positive stereotype which made life hideous just after the war.

Though he and others gave us the hard linguistic discipline we needed, nobody imposed on us the subtle and deadly code which makes it shameful to raise large and interesting questions — or indeed any questions at all not prescribed by the very latest fashion. The fungus which puts nearly all women, and a great many sensible men as well, entirely off philosophy was largely absent.

I don't want to suggest that it is worth while starting a European war in order to provide better conditions for doing philosophy in universities. But I do think that we were exceptionally lucky, and that there could be a moral in the tale.

MARY MIDDLELEY  
Department of philosophy,  
University of Newcastle.  
when there is no ground whatever for supposing it to be true." He added that this opinion, if it became common, would tend to diminish the incomes of clergymen and bishops. And, he might have added, professors of theology (and parapsychology).

Recently he was summarily dismissed from the chair he has held for many years at the Lunacharsky Theatrical Institute, "because of his son's dissident activities". (His son, Boris, took part in a "new left" discussion group criticizing Soviet society from a Marxist standpoint.)

I should be glad to hear from any readers who know of Professor Kagaritsky and his work, and who wish to be associated with the protests against this act of arbitrary victimization which are now being circulated.

PATRICK PARRINDER,  
39 College Road,  
Reading, Berks.

## A level grades

Sir, — I am somewhat fazed by Brian Heap's letter (THES, February 10) where he criticises several medical school admissions tutors expressing concern about the numbers of applicants seeking medical places with A level predictions of D, D, D grades and less. These are termed "pointless" applications and Mr Heap invites other departments, universities and polytechnics to let him have the approximate number or percentage of "pointless" applications submitted by schools for places on degree courses. The reality is much more complicated than Mr Heap or those medical school admissions tutors seem to appreciate. Schools, by and large, in giving advice on university entry, will advise candidates of the likely requirements for courses and will write Universities Central Council on Admissions testimonials accordingly. It would be very dishonest for a school to write an UCCA reference for a pupil if the school could not fully support the application. If schools do not operate this, some "pointless" applications could result. However, and often contrary to our best advice, candidates will sometimes insist on being entered for particular courses, for which we believe they may not be academically

suited. But what of the candidate whom we believe will make an excellent medic, or will benefit from a particular university course but may not attain the going "market rate" in terms of A level grades? Given the unreliability of A level results as predictions of degree results much less adaptability to a particular course, we hope the testimonials we write will be read. How do the admissions tutors and Mr Heap propose to distinguish between these three categories? I have been at the job of teaching long enough to know that our estimates of what our pupils might attain at A level can often be dramatically wrong so what may seem "pointless" to us can seem very realistic to our pupils.

Much more important however, do I detect evidence of something which I have sometimes suspected — admission tutors do not read testimonials with quite the same degree of care and attention with which we write them, and would prefer those boxes restored setting out grade predictions which were removed from the UCCA form some years ago. Then they would not have to read what we write at all.

## Right balance

Sir, — You argue (Leader, THES, February 10) that it is more important that the University Grants Committee (and later perhaps the National Advisory Body) should establish a proper standing committee for continuing education than that the Advisory Council on Adult and Continuing Education should be revived as an external development agency. What needs a balanced development on a comprehensive basis, ranging from literacy and numeracy to postgraduate education, from informal to formal courses at various levels. It should be a seamless robe, without planned development of the formal parts



Konstantin Chernenko: will he set right injustices?

to predominate over the informal, the vocational over the liberal, the advanced over the non-advanced. UGC and NAB committees alone would tend to increase this imbalance, and a development council with adequate resources (both "Responsible" and "Continued", not a revival of ACACE) is needed to correct it, and to secure cooperation between the agencies concerned, both statutory and voluntary.

Given the negative and chieftain attitudes of the DES, clearly adult and continuing educationists need to be "re-politicized" to campaign for such a council.

Yours truly,  
E. J. BURGE  
Professor of Physics,  
University of London.  
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Letters for publication should arrive by Tuesday morning. They should be as short as possible and written on one side of the paper. The editor reserves the right to cut or amend if necessary.

## More aid for overseas

Sir, — I would agree with the vice-chancellor of Oxford University, Mr Geoffrey Warnock, that the government should do more to encourage students from underdeveloped countries to study in Britain (THES, February 10).

Mr Warnock's finding that students from the poorest countries are under-represented in the overseas student intake to Oxford is borne out nationally. In 1974/5 students from the 30 least developed countries formed only 6.1 per cent of the total overseas numbers in the public sector and by 1981/2 (the last year for which national figures are available) the proportion stood at 5.3 per cent.

Dramatically rising fee levels and the introduction of full cost fees in 1980/1 have brought about a huge decline in overseas student numbers from a peak of 86,779 in 1978/9 to 57,840 in 1981/2. The decline in numbers among students from the poorest countries has been least precipitous. Yet this is no reason for complacency. The relative buffering of this group probably due to two causes: first, their numbers were already very low before 1981/2 indicating that high costs had already placed entry to British education beyond reach of most of these students; second, more of these students are likely to be supported by funding from public institutions, who are generally slower in adjusting their financial plans to changing circumstances than are private sources.

The new injection of funds within the Pym package to assist students from the underdeveloped countries is welcome. However, we believe further efforts need to be made to increase and improve existing provisions. In particular, we hope that the government will reconsider making funds available through educational institutions and non-governmental organizations in order to allow assistance to worthy students not included in existing schemes.

Yours faithfully,  
NIGEL HARTLEY,  
General Secretary,  
World University Service (UK)  
20/21 Compton Terrace,  
London.

## Two and four

Sir, — Why is Mr Pickard so anxious to discredit polytechnic achievements? (THES, February 3). His figures for losses of students between first and second years, and first and third years are no less than 24 per cent and 36 per cent respectively. I understand, on good evidence, that the average figures for polytechnics are nearer 14 per cent and 20 per cent. For universities the corresponding figures are about 8 per cent and 10 per cent.

Using these loss rates, reasonable distributions for a total of 3000 students would be for a polytechnic 1130, 970, 900 and 1615, 1385 and for a university 1065, 980, 955 and 1565, 1435. Hence, the extra intake for two-year courses would be 43 per cent for polytechnics and 47 per cent for universities. These percentages compare with my model's 50 per cent, Pickard's 36 per cent and your editorial's 33 per cent. Which now is the more tenable thesis?

However, the gravamen of my letter lay in the need to consider more four-year courses for certain science and engineering subjects, balanced by two-year courses for students more suited to shorter courses. Dare one suggest that Pickard's highlighting of the loss rates for polytechnics leads to the implication that there should be more two-year courses in polytechnics for such students and more four-year courses in universities for such subjects?

Both the ACC and the AMA say they will have to consider their fees for off the job training are agreed with the Confederation of British Industries. Members of the youth training board were divided on what recommendations should be made to MSC government proposals that an increase in the YTS block grant should be combined within 5 per cent.

Such an increase would raise the grant given to managing agents and from £1,950 to £2,050 costing

## Engineering survey slams polys

by David Jobbins

Leaders of the university lecturers' union face a war of attrition over tenure with continued efforts by individual institutions to permit redundancy as a reason for dismissal.

While Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education ponders the vice-chancellors' package for making tenure harder to achieve, ministers are determined that no newly-acquired academics should have cast iron protection.

The survey, carried out between 1979 and 1982, says: "The use of computers is disappointing and inefficient emphasis is placed upon their use in syllabus. Computers are rarely used to back up lecture material and are employed infrequently in laboratory work."

"Computer-aided design and manufacture developments occurring in major industrial concerns are neither reflected in curriculum design nor in engineering teaching. Few students have adequate personal experience of computing techniques."

The report says part of the reason is lack of computing facilities. Accommodation and equipment in the departments is inadequate in most cases, the report says, but the cost of updating equipment seemed prohibitive to some local education authorities.

Students are well-motivated and staff academically well-qualified, although job losses and pressures to raise staff/student ratios have in some departments meant aging staff and less tutorial provisions, leading to higher student failure rates.

Teaching was generally "conscientious, adequate and competent but often of a very traditional expository style centred on chalk board work and usually involving extensive and tedious note-taking by students," the report says. Part-time degree students — who should be taught alongside full-time or sandwich students — travel up to 100 miles each week to attend their polytechnic course.

But as financial restrictions continue to limit both teaching and material resources, the report says, there is a possibility that some polytechnic engineering departments will decide to concentrate their energies on undergraduate work and abandon part-time and technician work altogether.

Engineering in Polytechnics — a report on HMI visits to 13 polytechnic engineering departments, £1.50 from HMI Stationery Offices.

## Protests rejected

Cabinet ministers have rejected protests from union leaders and the local authority associations over the White Paper proposals for a partial transfer of control and funding of non-advanced further education to the Manpower Services Commission.

A plea from the Association of County Councils for a 12-month stay of execution was rejected in a joint meeting with the Association of Metropolitan Authorities. Sir Keith Joseph and Mr Tom King, secretary of state for employment.

And leaders of the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education emerged from a separate meeting with Sir Keith without swaying the minister. Its president, Mr Cecil Robinson, commented: "The secretary of state seems intent on using a sledgehammer to crack a nut."

The AMA, ACC and trade unions agree that ministers have failed to provide that further education under local control has failed to meet the country's training needs.

The ACC told the ministers that local authorities should be allowed to keep the £65m due to be transferred to the MSC in the first year and following rejection of this proposal is to consider its next step at an emergency meeting of its education committee next month.

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before not got caught up in the projected wrangles affecting the Institute of Education and University College, Aberystwyth, which were told that redundancy should be added when they applied for charters.

But it is being challenged by the Association of University Teachers, which points out the importance of tenure in safeguarding academic freedom.

The business school houses the centre for economic forecasting which manages the school's influential and controversial economic forecasting model. The AUT's deputy general secretary Mr John Akker said: "There have been cases in both the US and the UK where Government or industrial concerns put pressure on institutions to close departments and sack staff, usually by threats of withdrawal of funds."

"Although the school may be producing work in tune with the political objectives of the current Government,

future governments might not view it so kindly."

And at the School of Oriental and African Studies, the AUT is claiming that an offer to staff who have ended five-year contracts of substantive posts but with a redundancy clause is a breach of a national agreement on probation because at least two of the 13 currently involved have previously completed probationary periods elsewhere.

School secretary Mr E. O'Connor said the contracts had been negotiated within the joint staff committee on which the local AUT is represented. "The school does not consider it has breached the national agreement," he said.

The local AUT has instructed its representatives on the joint staff committee to withdraw from discussions on redundancy clauses to all staff who complete a satisfactory probationary review.

## ILEA plans University of South-East London

by Maggie Richards

A proposal to create a new and "truly comprehensive" university in London, using Goldsmiths' College as the main academic base, has come from the Inner London Education Authority.

The initiative coincides with the announcement this week that the new warden of Goldsmiths is to be Professor Andrew Rutherford, Regius Professor of English and vice principal of Aberdeen University. He will take up his appointment on September 1.

A preliminary meeting to discuss the ILEA proposal has already been held between officers and members of the authority and representatives from Goldsmiths. Further grassroots discussions are now to take place between heads of departments at the college and staff from the two other educational institutions involved in the plan — Thames Polytechnic and Avery Hill College.

Though the suggestion of a merger between the three institutions has been mooted for some time, it is now being presented as an opportunity to establish a new "University of South-East London".

Members of ILEA's controlling Labour group are also determined that the new institution would be completely different in outlook to that of traditional universities in Britain.

From the outset it would adopt a completely open access policy, running courses across the entire education spectrum.

Two factors are likely to present problems when discussions on the proposals begin. Funding of the three institutions at present involves the Department of Education and Science, the National Advisory Body and ILEA. A new system of financing the institution would have to be agreed.

Concrete plans for the new university would need to be produced fairly rapidly. The present arrangements for



Rutherford: new warden

validation of Goldsmiths' courses by the University of London come to an end in 1985.

Goldsmiths's delegacy, the college governing body, will be meeting in May to hear the results of discussions between the three institutions at academic levels. In the meantime it is strongly pursuing the alternative option — for the adoption of the college as a school of London University, and its merger with Queen Mary College.

The new warden, Professor Rutherford, aged 54, Professor Rutherford is a member of the General Advisory Council of the BBC.

He is a member of the English Teaching Advisory Committee of the British Council, and was chairman of the CNA English Studies Board for six years. He also served as president of the International Association of University Professors of English for three years.

Professor Rutherford's publications include books and articles on Byron and Kipling.

## Principal in merger struggle

A vigorous struggle is emerging at Royal Holloway College, London, about whether Professor Dorothy Wedderburn should be made principal after the merger with Bedford College.

At a recent meeting at RHC, members of the academic board stayed behind after business was concluded, so that staff could make their views clear on the suitability of Professor Wedderburn, the principal of Bedford.

The RHC principal, Dr Ray Miller, left the meeting before any discussion, and then several senior members of staff expressed strong reservations about appointing Professor Wedderburn.

It was understood at the meeting that a resolution would be put to the next meeting of the RHC council, that

there should be no internal candidates for the principalship. But in fact, no resolution was ever put.

A search committee with representation from both colleges is likely to make recommendations on the principalship.

This week Professor Cliff Lewis, professor of zoology at Holloway said there was by no means a "stop Wedderburn" movement.

An informal approach had been made by senior members of Bedford council, and it was agreed that members of RHC staff should make their views known on the principalship. He said it was a perfectly proper sounding of opinion, and these views would go to the appropriate committee.

Professor Wedderburn was unavailable for comment.

## Arthur's seat for Edinburgh

Edinburgh University is to establish Britain's first chair of parapsychology, funded by a £500,000 bequest from Arthur Koestler and his wife Cynthia.

estate who include Dr John Beloff, senior lecturer in psychology at Edinburgh, announced their decision, to give Edinburgh the chair. The bequest was made in 1978.

## Aston library 'not meeting student need'

Aston University's library is not meeting the needs of either undergraduates or academics, according to a new report.

A new commitment to "support the university's chosen activities at a realistic level" is recommended by the report, which was compiled by the Centre for Research on User Studies.

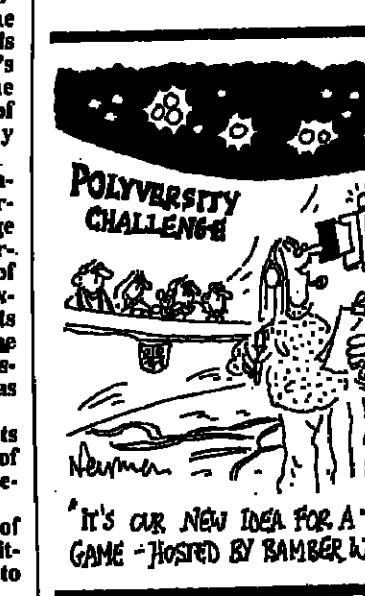
Investigators found that over half of the undergraduates surveyed had not consulted reference books, or had used the service only once during the period under scrutiny. Half of those questioned also reported difficulties in obtaining material from the library, the highest proportion being undergraduates and postgraduate students.

Undergraduates confronted with problems in obtaining material tended to buy the necessary items themselves, borrow from others, or give up the search. Only 38 per cent of undergraduates questioned had used the resources of other libraries, while 78 per cent of research staff had sought information from external sources.

Though the library was a crucial source of course books, virtually all students reported difficulties in obtaining the required material. Most research students felt the university library could not be expected to meet all their needs, so relied more extensively on the inter-library loan service. But within Aston, research students reported a poor range of books, and a very limited range of journals and other materials.

Academics tended to feel the university library should be catering principally for the needs of students, and were more likely to purchase their own material or obtain them from outside sources.

The University of Aston Library — three studies, by Colin Harris and Christine Mullings, is available from the Centre for Research on User Studies, University of Sheffield.



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## Malcolm Muggeridge & Children's Society Award for Young Authors 1984



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## DON'S DIARY

MONDAY FEB 6

Once again the American University of Beirut (AUB) has been obliged to close. Not altogether clear who is responsible. Rumour suggests that closure has been demanded by the leader of the Amal Shi'ite Muslim organization, Nabih Berri. Others claim that the AUB administration has made the decision to forestall campus intercommunal violence. Where the initiative lies is irrelevant. Ever since the assassination of Dr. Malcolm Kerr, AUB president, on January 18, a drift towards renewed fighting has gathered momentum. Two weeks to go before end of semester; probably a fruitless exercise to begin marking papers; likelihood of classes resuming seems remote. Difficult to remember last time we concluded a semester elegantly and on the appointed date.

TUESDAY FEB 7

AUB still closed. Thank God! After last night's ear-splitting, continuous barrage had overlept. Am now quite adept at distinguishing between rocket and shellfire, and can calculate the probable distance away of the artillery piece that fired it, thanks to my new, duty-free, multi-functional Seiko wristwatch, bought for a song last week from a man with a suitcase on Hamra Street. Make casual inspection of the damage on campus. Shattered tiles; broken glass; assorted debris; a burst water main. Director of physical plant estimates the cost of repair at around \$400,000, which seems relatively little considering the assorted missiles that rained in last night.

Off-campus, however, the damage is much worse. Once again, AUB's good fortune seems to have held. Saddened to hear of the deaths of two local acquaintances and injury to another. Later had made his way to the ATJ Hospital, where he had been given emergency treatment in the waiting room of the outpatients' department, as all beds occupied by casualties.

Miraculously, no AUB faculty, staff or students on campus suffered from the bombardment, though an estimated half dozen shells had landed on student dormitories. Perhaps no less a miracle for those who had been cowering in basements while the Lebanese army and Phalangist forces had traded fire with Shi'ite Muslim irregulars and Lebanese army deserters, was absence of enmity among all concerned. Christian, staff and students, all were victims. Politicians? Useless bastards. Superpowers? Cynical and untrustworthy. Reagan? Stupid shithead. Curious how one's language falls into convulsive spasms of obscenity, living in Beirut.

WEDNESDAY FEB 8

Still no classes of course. Rather scruffy armed men have taken over the campus gates from Lebanese army regulars. They appear quite amiable. Establishing one's identity at their checkpoints may even be entertaining. No longer guttural barks in Arabic; demanding production of one's *hawiyah*; instead, affable, hissing grins and proud but uncertain English: "Hello, what is my name?" Wonder how long this will last?

Rumour that certain contingents of the Multi-National peace-keeping force may be leaving. Discover an hour later that the British already have US marines announce their re-deployment.

Evening: hell hath no fury like a US president scorned. Night-long barrage from US naval vessels lying offshore, the world's biggest battleship, the New Jersey, pumps 500 one-ton shells into the Lebanese mountains in unconscious parody of a similar incident in Conrad's *Heart of Darkness*. Perhaps the study of English literature does have its uses after all. No US naval commander who had read Conrad would have laid himself open to such acts of thundering fury.

THURSDAY FEB 9

BBC Overseas Service newscaster and local hero, Gerry Butt, informs his attentive Lebanese constituency that Larry Speakes in a press conference delivered at President Reagan's California ranch had announced that US naval ships had fired on "Moslem" positions and silenced gun batteries. Syria claims there have been heavy civilian casualties, and in any event the shelling from the mountains has continued.

Reagan seems determined to walk firmly into the hole the Lebanese president and the Christian Phalangists have dug for him. Once again, it appears, the US has decided to prop up a minority government in the face of the Moslem majority; local American residents begin to peel the thin film from their mounting paranoia; suitcases are packed; US naval helicopters land on the seafloor cornice in front of AUB to pull out "non-essential, US embassy personnel." Actually, the Brits are the first to announce evacuation plans for their local residents. Gerry Butt tells us we must tune in to the BBC for more detailed information.

FRIDAY FEB 10

Distinct feeling of *déjà vu*. How many times before have we had to go through this "will we-won't we" routine? By now we are quite knowledgeable about the inevitable discomforts of evacuating. Last time it was a container ship and iron rations, courtesy of HMCG in the British army base at Episkopi in Cyprus. (The French and Italians, by contrast, went out on a cruise boat, all expenses paid.) "If you think it's going to be a pleasure cruise, forget it," says I, a seasoned evacuee, to relative newcomers. "And the alternative?" "Take your chances, keep your head down, and be prepared to cope with shortages of food, water, electricity, cooking gas, dawn-to-dusk curfews, crushing boredom and a few moments of sheer, fucking terror." (There I go again.) "I might be able to get some writing done."

Noon: Evacuees beginning to assemble on the cornice in front of my bedroom window. Better get some letters written, so one of them will be able to mail them from Cyprus. Might as well try and knock off something for *THE TIMES*. They took a similar place before. A few extra pounds in the bank could be a blessing. This time, we may all be out of a job.

Evening: The last of the helicopters have whirled away with their load of waving Brits. One does feel smug, though, at having decided to stay behind, feeling too unsettled to open a book. Not scared. Unsettled. All those embraces, tears and hearty ho-ho's. "And if we aren't able to get back this time, here's £100 to have someone put the dog down." Not quite the rich and untroubled round of academic life that I expected. Come to think of it, when was the last time I read a serious book, a really serious book?

Middle manager in hospital administration living on the third floor has a video. He stayed too. Later: Watched *Karate Killers* in preference to *The Day After Tomorrow*. I really will get some serious work done. In the meantime, must try to find a store which sells Kitty-Litter. Nice to have a Siamese cat in the house again!

John Munro

The author has been professor of English at the American University of Beirut since 1965.

## Sir Peter predicts more cuts

by Paul Flather

Universities can expect some further "nibbling away" of resources over the next few years, Sir Peter Swinnerton-Dyer, chairman of the University Grants Committee, confirmed in Cambridge this week.

Sir Peter, a former vice-chancellor of Cambridge, was answering questions on the role of the UGC from about 40 student officers of the Cambridge University's Students Union and from other college unions.

Sir Peter said that since 1973 universities had experienced some nibbling away of resources, followed by a sharp cut in 1981, and it looked as if this nibbling away would continue.

The latest expenditure White Paper included a half per cent "efficiency cut" for each of the next three years.

But it would have been much worse if Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education, had not continued to fight his corner against the Treasury long after other Cabinet colleagues had given up, he said. He admitted that while the cuts were being implemented very little money was actually being saved.

Sir Peter strongly denied that the current consultation exercise sent to all universities was a prelude for predicted cuts. This assumed the Government had known what expenditure levels were likely to be and that it had told the UGC. Neither had happened, he said, and the exercise was perfectly genuine.

In a separate lecture, this time to

university officers, Sir Peter said that universities were going to have to spread their research rather more unevenly in future, warding people off promises and the temptation to keep "ducks" aloof.

Sir Peter, speaking on the UGC research funding, reaffirmed his view that universities would have to be specializing as research funds dried.

The choice was either spending more thinly or concentrating on a few subjects.

He said there was still a tendency in universities to stay in the "old subjects" leaving no resources for new subjects. "Universities do not resist that tendency to plummet down the path of order."

## Heriot-Watt pharmacy may get reprieve

by Olga Wojtas  
Scottish Correspondent

The University Grants Committee is to review its decision to axe Heriot-Watt University's pharmacy department.

There was widespread condemnation of the move when it was announced at the beginning of the year. This heightened when it was revealed that the UGC panel earmarking departments for closure had produced a secret report ranking university schools of pharmacy in order of merit.

The UGC had said Heriot-Watt school should be axed since its intake of 45 fell below the recommended minimum of 60. But the confidential report from the panel of studies allied to medicine showed that four schools fell below the minimum. Heriot-Watt was picked out because it was considered the weakest of the university schools on the mainland in terms of

academic attainment and its research "remains modest".

The UGC has now told the panel to prepare a new report and its committee will make a final decision on the department's future on March 22.

The Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain has condemned the panel's view as "subjective opinion" and added it was unfortunate for the report's credibility that the school favoured as the strongest were the ones with representatives on the panel.

The society's secretary and registrar, Mr Desmond Lewis, wrote to the UGC attacking the secrecy of the report. The entire pharmacy department of Queen's University, Belfast wrote a strong letter to the *Pharmaceutical Journal* urging the UGC to form a new panel on pharmacy.

The UGC has also been lobbied by a number of groups, including Booksellers, pointing out that pharmacy is a regional profession.

## Sir Keith praises NAB

Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education and Science, this week said he was pleased with the National Advisory Body's work. Only weeks before he decides the NAB's future Sir Keith said: "I think the Government has been very fortunate in the quality of cooperation given by the local education authorities here, and this quality of the people who have been involved. I regard myself as very lucky in holding my office to have the NAB procedure in being."

Sir Keith was making his first appearance before the new Commons Select Committee on Education in what Sir William van Straubenzee, the chairman, described as a "general reflective walk over the whole spectrum".

He answered questions on the cuts at Salford and Aston universities, which he said were a matter for the University Grants Committee. He also spoke about the binary divide which is already looking different with the

establishment of the NAB and the merger in Ulster.

On this subject of student grants Sir Keith said he had preferred loans, but was not the decision of the Government, and was not on the agenda. "I have said if the Government wanted to get it back on the agenda, there would need to be an announcement and consultations," he added.

"Sir Keith welcomed the university vice chancellors' new committee to look at quality. I am concerned about the quality, and in some cases the quality and the quantity of many aspects of higher education," he said. He added however that he had mainly to rely on the universities and local authorities to monitor it.

He ruled out making adult education provision a duty for local education authorities, but did not commit himself on whether it should be established as a power. At present its status is uncertain.

## Computer invents students

Fife Regional Council has paid Strathclyde Region £800,000 for 132 non-existent students because of a computing error.

The Scottish local authorities pay one another for students whose home is in one region but who study in education courses a code number which the Scottish Office computer had already allocated to a college in Strathclyde. This result in 132 Fife students being listed as emigrants to the West.

The regions are concerned that this newly-discovered error may be only the tip of the iceberg. There are fears that they are charged for students who are either supporting themselves or funded by industrial training boards, and for students who are enrolled on courses which they never begin.

There also seems to be widespread confusion over students' home addresses, which some regions class as the address on one particular date.

Conservative students are planning a new assault on what they regard as non-democratic practices which lead to decisions being unrepresentative of majority opinion.

The Federation of Conservative Students this week complained of "widespread malpractices" despite the steps already taken and called for reform on important issues, secret hand-outs and higher quorums in general meetings.

groups responded has disclosed that cross campus ballots are used in only 20 per cent of colleges in some cases, and that the average quorum for general meetings, the most important decision-making body in 75 per cent of the cases, was only 4.6 per cent of the student body.

FCS vice chairman Mr Julian Samways said: "Decision-making can be legitimized by as little as 2 per cent of the student body and one also found

## Poly students 'more highly motivated'

by David Jobbins

The myth that polytechnic students adopt a more superficial approach to their studies than their university counterparts has been exploded in a new analysis of research into student attitudes to teaching.

Instead polytechnic students across all main subject areas were found to be more highly motivated than university students.

Paul Ramsden, from Newcastle Polytechnic's educational development service, set a number of commonly-held suppositions about different approaches against data collected by researchers at Lancaster University.

The key supposition was that

polytechnic students would have a more superficial approach to study and be more concerned with learning details by rote with the aim of securing qualifications to obtain a job.

By contrast, university students would be expected to exhibit a deeper approach and be more concerned with study for intrinsic academic reasons than vocational goals.

The assumptions are reinforced by the popular view of universities as academic hothouses while the vocationally-oriented polytechnics are regarded as second-class institutions aimed at producing employable graduates.

Mr Ramsden says that the idea polytechnics offer a poorer quality of undergraduate education has never

been properly tested.

The 2,008 university and polytechnic students questioned not only provide evidence that the popular assumptions about the type of study are wrong. Their answers led Mr Ramsden to conclude that the standard of teaching performance and the help given to students in approaching academic work was better in the polytechnics.

This may be because of the effect educational advisory units have on polytechnics and monitoring by the Council for National Academic Awards. It may explain why polytechnic students have better than expected study habits.

These results provide some evidence to sustain the view that deliber-

ate efforts to improve teaching in higher education have worthwhile effects on student learning," Mr Ramsden says.

He suggests there might be some educational advantages in weakening the rigid barrier of the binary divide.

"It is somewhat ironic that polytechnic graduates are actually more likely to be unemployed than their university counterparts," Mr Ramsden says.

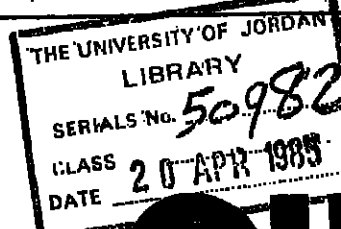
"Institutional variations in British students' approaches to learning and experiences of teaching" by Paul Ramsden, in *Higher Education* Vol 12, No 4, Elsevier Science Publishers BV, PO Box 211, 1000, AE Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

## Committee on industry formed

The Committee of Vice Chancellors and Principals has appointed the members of its new advisory committee on industry.

It includes Kenneth Durham, chairman of Unilever; Sir Austin Bido, Glaxo Holdings; Mrs Sara Morrison, General Electric Company; Brian Oakley, the Alvey Directorate; Sir Alastair Pilkington, Pilkington Brothers; Mr Matthew Bullock, Birm-

lays Bank; Viscount Caldecote, Investors in Industry; Dr Charles Reece, Imperial Chemical Industries; Mr M. F. Wood, the Oxford Instruments Group; Professor Peter Mathias, Oxford University; and other senior academics, industrialists and lay members of the council. Also serving are the vice chancellors from Stirling, Salford, Edinburgh, Surrey, the London Business School, Manchester and Leicester.



## NO QUESTIONS ASKED

Higher education gives staff and students the freedom to study their chosen subject. Plus the freedom to enjoy the many work and leisure facilities available at colleges, polytechnics and universities.

No one wants restrictions placed upon this freedom but the problem still remains of how to prevent unauthorised outsiders from taking advantage of what's on offer. The simple solution lies in a LAMINEX identity card. One quick glance at an individually designed LAMINEX card carrying both the holder's signature and picture will soon establish staff or student credibility. And a LAMINEX card can actually add to the quality of campus life. It opens the way to easy administration of staff and student discount schemes and allows proper management of subsidised facilities such as bars and canteens. It gives immediate proof of a person's entitlement to use sports halls, laboratories, bookshops and libraries and, off campus, it's proof of student status for travel and theatre tickets.

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## overseas news

## Reagan to be a Stanford museum piece

from Charlotte Beyers

PALO ALTO

After months of hickering Stanford University has finally made peace with the White House and agreed "in principle" to accept the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum on campus.

The words "in principle" mean that both sides must still decide the site of the library, the architectural style and, most important, what will happen to the controversial Reagan Center for Public Affairs.

Mr Donald Kennedy, Stanford's president, said that the university's board of trustees approved the project because the White House finally capitulated. Reagan is offering his presidential papers to Stanford with no strings attached.

"We are pleased the president's papers will come to our campus. The library will be a valuable adjunct to the Hoover," Kennedy said.

The fate of the Center for Public Affairs is still uncertain. Earlier the White House had wanted the library to be part of a package tied to the public affairs centre, which would be controlled by the Hoover Institution. The Hoover is a conservative think tank and lists Reagan as an honorary fellow.

Stanford insisted that the centre would be run by the university or not at all. Stanford won the battle. Presidential counsellor Edwin Meese wrote conceding that the university could have the library and museum and that the policy centre would be a separate matter.

To clarify this letter or perhaps motivated by the

shock of victory, Donald Kennedy and William Kimball, head of Stanford's board of trustees, wrote to the White House requesting more information. Stanford received a letter saying the package deal was off and that the library was Stanford's.

The library would be under the control of the National Archives. Preliminary cost estimates indicate that about \$65m in private gift support would be required, including \$40 to \$45m for construction and about \$20m for the public affairs centre.

Round two will concern the public affairs centre. At a press conference held recently, Donald Kennedy did not rule out the possibility that it might not come about at all.



## Cure for rural health crisis

by Thomas Land

Brazil will soon launch a daring experiment in medical education which seeks to erect universities without walls whose graduates are prepared to serve the neglected rural areas.

The project enjoys the enthusiastic support of the United Nations World Health Organization (WHO). It has also attracted the intense interest of educational planners around the globe's hungry belt. The WHO is nudging them to rethink their budgets and to introduce drastic economies in the training of highly qualified health professionals. Brazil intends to do just that.

Its project is described in the current issue of *World Health Forum* by Gladstone Rodrigues da Cunha Filho, the higher education secretary at the ministry of education in Brasilia. "The traditional student/professor model of teaching will be discarded in favour of one in which the student is actively involved with, and learning from, the community from the beginning of his training," he says.

"Such a practical learning experience will provide students with invaluable

insight into the social and health problems of the community and make them better able to adapt and respond to rapidly changing social needs."

He explains: "It is easy for a training course organized on a formal basis and conducted within a training institution gradually to lose touch with reality." Brazil would therefore integrate university health science schools with the national health care service so that "most of the teaching should be carried out in general hospitals, outpatient clinics, health centres and rural posts and in family and community levels."

Brazil's timely educational reforms are in line with the conclusions of a discussion paper just published by the WHO. This argues that the developing countries may be putting the lives of millions at risk by spending up to 80 per cent of their health budgets on doctors - whose training tends to divorce them from the communities they should serve.

The WHO argues that the major health problems of the hungry world could be best solved through primary health care essentially concerned with the prevention of disease.

## 'No nudes' is not such good news

Drawing from the nude does not constitute obscenity, comrade Qian Shaozu, Peking Radio's resident expert on spiritual pollution decided recently. Properly conducted life classes in art schools are, on the contrary, indispensable. The fact that some recalcitrant students for other purposes use nude studies for drawing from the nude should not affect one's attitude to the scientific studies of human bodies and their movement which is an essential foundation for the art of realism.

The question of nude studies, said Qian, has long been a matter for ideological debate. In the 1930s, there was an intense struggle against the warlord Sun Quansang, which resulted in a victory for the pro-nude lobby. Socialism, he said, provided the conditions in which the matter could be settled scientifically, and in 1964, Chairman Mao formally pronounced in favour of life classes. During the cultural revolution, however, drawing from the nude was considered a hot bed for cultivating young revisionist successors. Following the fall of the Gang of Four, the education office of the Ministry of Culture issued a circular advocating the reintroduction of life classes in art schools.

The launching by the central committee last autumn of a drive against spiritual pollution (alleged traces in Chinese society of Western pornography and permissiveness) raised the question of nude models once again, although Qian assured his listeners, the two matters are in no way connected.

Nevertheless, he urged that in the present situation drawing from the nude should be restricted to specialized academies or units under the direction of properly qualified teachers. What these special circumstances are, he did not specify. Recent scandals, however, which involved the sons of several high party officials, who allegedly took part in nude dancing parties and re-photographed and circulated centre folds from *Playboy*, resulted in the execution of the accused on the formal charge of rape.

## Pathologist wins prestige rectorship

by Sarah Jane Evans

The rector of Spain's largest university was elected this month to see through the reforms outlined in the new University Act. To critics of "Fascists out of the university," "No dictators" and clenched fists from some of the voting delegates, Amador Schuller Pérez, professor of pathology in the medical faculty, was declared the winner of the seven-man contest at Madrid's Complutense University.

This is a key appointment because the Complutense University by its size is very influential. The decisions the director takes now on how to interpret the Act will have a spin-off effect on tertiary education as a whole.

The Bill on university reform was one of the earlier pieces of legislation introduced by the socialist administration of Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez after it came to power just over a year ago.

An earlier Bill on university autonomy (*Ley Orgánica de Autonomía Universitaria*) proposed by the previous centrist government had foundered on attacks from academics, and from the left. The left criticized it for its encouragement of private universities and for raising the possibility of higher student fees.

University teachers on the establishment objected to the proposal that non-tenured staff should be given tenure without having to take the hitherto usual competitive examinations. And the autonomous regions complained that the law offered no autonomy at all - that it actually took away power from the regions to administer their own education.

Under the new Act, the universities are independent but linked to their autonomous region. The rectors are chosen by a council of staff and students and this new administration is then free to take control over a greatly increased range of powers.

The universities now become independent entities administering their own budgets, negotiating research contracts with outside bodies and producing their own syllabuses and courses.

During the Franco years, researchers in Spain's universities had very limited contacts with their colleagues round the world. The freedoms allowed under the new Act have been widely welcomed in terms of the

academic and financial benefits they will bring.

The Act also brought in some changes to teacher's conditions. The much-criticized competitive exams run by the ministry for all staff appointments have been abolished and replaced by a much more reasonable system of public examination of candidates.

The number of grades of teacher has been reduced to four, doing away with the previous army of unregistered staff providing a kind of cheap labour. With these improvements, staff are also expected to be more committed to their jobs. The amount of time that he spent "moonlighting" on other jobs is to be strictly controlled.

There were seven candidates for the rectorship of the Complutense University which, by its size and resources, has an influence on policy-making throughout higher education. All the candidates are professors from the university - two lawyers, an engineer, an economist, two social scientists and a professor of medicine.

Their manifestos, in greater or lesser degree, express their desires to improve the spirit of the Act. They all draw attention to the need to improve the quality of the teaching and support available to staff.

The new rector is number 352 in the list of rectors which was begun in 1088 and was chosen by a council of 1088. He has less than a year to introduce the new statutes of the university.

Professor Schuller, who is president of the Spanish Internal Medicine Society, runs the most oversubscribed faculty in Spain. Through the principle of open access to university education for all qualified applicants is the rule in Spain, the Complutense operates a quota system in its medical faculty. The professor has declared himself in favour of restricted entry procedures for other faculties in a university which is notorious for overcrowding.

In his manifesto he committed himself to restructuring the staff appointment system, which currently relies heavily on staff on short term contracts. Professor Schuller defended himself against the angry cries of his opponents with the words, "I am a liberal". It is clear that he will not introduce any major innovations under the freedom available to him in the new Act.

## Languages hit an all-time low in the US

from P. E. Burke

Foreign language studies both at college and high school levels in the US are at their lowest ebb. There are signs of increasing interest, but not in Romance languages which have been traditionally taught, but in what has been described as "exotic", "world-strategic" and "ethnic" languages.

During the past decade there have been significant increases in colleges for the following languages: Arabic (160 per cent increase), Chinese (82 per cent), Japanese (74 per cent), Hindi (276 per cent), Polish (72 per cent) and Swedish (38 per cent).

Richard Ried, director of the foreign-language programme of the Chicago-based Modern Language Association, says that the study of foreign languages is being taught in only 15 per cent of high schools. Only 4 per cent of high school teachers have completed more than two

for accredited (college) programmes, but ethnic language courses are also taught at community schools.

Until 1917, German was the language most taught at all levels in US education. It is now barely holding third place above Italian. German was traditionally taught, but in what has been described as "exotic", "world-strategic" and "ethnic" languages.

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Richard Ried, director of the foreign-language programme of the Chicago-based Modern Language Association, says that the study of foreign languages is being taught in only 15 per cent of high schools. Only 4 per cent of high school teachers have completed more than two

years of foreign language study. American colleges began to drop both entrance and graduation language requirements in the mid-1960s. Some 90 per cent of all US colleges had language requirements until 53 per cent by 1974.

The black pressure groups say that the language requirement at college level is "most odious" for both blacks and struggling students. Colleges have noted that students switch from courses where there are language requirements.

Paul Griffith, educational consultant with the Illinois Board of Education said: "There are a lot of good arguments for teaching our languages. We ought to begin to look at them for international reasons, our economic and political well-being and cultural heritage."

## overseas news

## Lack of research increases health costs

from E. Patrick McQuaid  
CAMBRIDGE, MASS

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A document outlining prepared testimony from prominent research physicians has been obtained by *The Times*. The government and research community's failure to exploit the financial advantages of clinical trials will be the subject of hearings before the House Subcommittee on Health and Long-Term Care, chaired by Mr Claude Pepper, a Democrat from Florida. The hearings are scheduled for mid-March.

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made to apply the results of one study at one institution to another, which may be paying for a particular technology. The report says "technology" in its broadest sense to include any treatment or therapy employing some device.

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Efforts are further curbed by severe funding cuts in the US Public Health Services Office of Health Technology assessments which "take into account their safety, efficacy, cost-effectiveness and social, ethical, and economic impacts". With limited funds in recent years, the office has limited the bulk of its research to studying current literature on technology rather than conducting extensive trials of its own, according to the report. The problem is further magnified because the health care financing administration depends on that agency's recommendation about whether or not to reimburse for a particular technology in the Medicare

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This represents about 10 per cent of all graduates. Yet in December 1972 there were only 1,500 registered as unemployed.

The crisis year was 1982, when a record wave of graduates came onto the market at the severest point of the recession. The economic crisis now seems to be over and the industrial sector is expanding, but there is little hope for improvement in areas which depend on government spending - teaching, medicine, dentistry and the civil service.

Yet roughly three quarters of all students are being trained for jobs which require government funding. Today there are 1,600 unemployed doctors, 1,400 law graduates, 1,200 language and literature graduates and 230 dentists.

Mr Deetman, the minister of education, has suggested that certain entry should be restricted in certain fields, but predictions have in the past proved to be a poor guide.

Students themselves are, however, adapting to the situation. School head-teachers report that they are inundated with questions about which line of study is likely to lead to a decent job.

A study of school-leavers by the Economics Institute of the University of Nijmegen shows that boys especially are likely to adjust their study plans to improve their employment prospects. Students already enrolled in the universities are selecting the most marketable specialties.

Within psychology, for example, more students are opting for organizational and industrial psychology. Clinical psychology - a field in which there is high unemployment - is currently starved of students.

Graduates still have a better job record than non-graduates. The 10 per cent level of graduate unemployment is better than the national level, which is over 17 per cent.

On the other hand, graduates are being increasingly obliged to accept jobs for which they are over qualified. There are innumerable stories of doctors starting take-away restaurants, psychotherapists running coffee-shops, historians designing clothes, anthropologists dealing in Japanese prints and economists importing mosquito nets from Bangladesh.



## Taking the federal role for granted

This is the time of year in the United States when the President sends his budget to Congress. We now know that President Reagan, in spite of all of the rhetoric about excellence in education, has proposed modest cuts in federal aid to higher education in the academic year 1985-86.

It is important to understand that the Congress can only appropriate funds up to limits allowed by legislation authorizing programmes. The relationship between authorizing legislation and appropriations is that between establishing programmes and actually funding them.

In 1984, the Congress may begin to consider reauthorizing the Higher Education Act of 1965 which establishes the federal financial role in American higher education. Although the current legislation does not expire until 1985, Congressman Paul Simon, Democrat from Illinois, the chairman of the House of Representatives postsecondary subcommittee, has indicated that he expects to hold hearings on reauthorization of the Higher Education Act this spring.

Congressman Simon has circulated for comment an interesting memo outlining his ideas for reauthorizing legislation to govern the federal role for the rest of the 1980s. The major title of the legislation presently in place provides federal student aid programmes through grants, loans and money for work/study jobs on campus. The current programmes are complex and represent a compromise between public and private institutions.

Congressman Simon wishes to make the grants an entitlement for all needy students. Such an entitlement programme would mean that the president and Congress would have to fund the grants for all needy students who met legislative standards.

His formulation would allow the funding up to 75 per cent of the tuition charges. There would then be an additional specified allowance to cover non-tuition, school-related expenses.

This formulation represents a compromise between public and private institutions in that the entitlement character would help public colleges and the fact that there is no cap on tuition charges would help the private institutions.

Another innovation in the Simon plan is the development of a new programme of endowment challenge grants to institutions which may be tied to a commitment to hold back increases in tuition charges. The first year programme would authorize \$600m, a significant new approach to federal aid to institutions which has been tried in regard to historically black, developing colleges, but has never been implemented on a large scale.

Although the endowment approach offers real promise, an attempt to use modest endowment grants to the institutions to promise not to increase tuition is not especially constructive. Tuition increases are cost driven and only very substantial endowments can reduce the need for tuition increases to meet increasing costs. The endowment idea without the tie to tuition price control would be a step forward. It is time for the United States to take such a step.

Irving J. Spitzberg, Jr

The author is general secretary of the American Association of University Professors.

## Loosening the old school ties

Do university and college neckties promote morale and pride in the alma mater? The American answer seems to be yes, but only if the wearing of such is supported by the students. The student executive committee of the distinguished men-only Washington and Lee University found this out the hard way.

The committee thought that the wearing of ties would promote pride at the liberal-arts university that was founded partly with George Washington's money and was headed after the Civil War by General Robert E. Lee.

However, faced with protests from both students and faculty, the committee had to loosen its recommendation.

## Hungarians go private

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Reporting on the 1983 figures, Budapest radio noted that graduates' main cause for dissatisfaction with the production sector was the low wages offered. There was also considerable reluctance to work in rural areas, and even graduates in agricultural sciences try, if possible, to find a city job. Almost 20 per cent of the 1983 crop of agricultural graduates are now working in Budapest.

Teaching and medicine, where salaries and conditions are notoriously poor, have more and more posts which cannot be filled by the traditional procedure of open competition. Although the commentator noted, all 1983 medical graduates have found jobs "except those waiting for posts in Pecs or Budapest."

For graduates in the humanities the problem is not a lack of congenial employment but the lack of any suitable job.

## More closures follow clashes in Pakistan

from Hasan Akhtar

ISLAMABAD

Authorities in Karachi have closed down two of the city's colleges after a week of student agitation against the banning of student unions and organizations in all colleges and universities in Sindh. Similar prohibitory orders

apply to colleges and universities in Pakistan's other three provinces.

In Karachi and Lahore a number of students have also been expelled from the university and colleges for leading demonstrations which resulted in violent clashes with police. About 50 students have been expelled and 200 students have been arrested.

Dr. Mohammad Afzal, Pakistan's education minister, said that about 15 people had been killed in the last few years on various campuses and lawlessness and destruction of property had risen.

He announced he had called a nationwide student conference in March to consider and devise a plan of action to promote "healthy activities" at the campus.



## V-c's appointment angers Marxists

from A. S. Abraham

BOMBAY

Troubled times lie ahead for Calcutta University as the controversy over the appointment of its new vice-chancellor, Santosh Bhattacharya, looks set to become an academic and a political cause celebre.

The Marxist government of West Bengal state recommended the reappointment in his post of Ramen Poddar. Normally, the governor of the state (the chancellor of the university), although a federal appointee, chooses as vice-chancellor whoever the local government proposes from three candidates elected by the senate. Constitutionally, higher education is a provincial, not a federal, responsibility.

But the governor, Mr A. P. Sharma, decided to go strictly by the number of votes polled in the university's elections for the post. Thanks to the Marxists, Bhattacharya got more votes than Poddar and was appointed. Immediately, there was a hue and cry.

The Left Front government, dominated by the Communist Party of India (Marxist), accused the governor of flouting convention because, as a former member of Mrs Gandhi's Congress (I) party, he wanted the vice

chancellorship of West Bengal's most important university to go to the Congress (I)-supported candidate.

It cited precedents in 1954 and 1955 when the winning candidate was passed over by the governor of the day in favour of the provincial government's nominee.

The Marxist have hit back by boycotting all functions attended by the governor or Congress (I) officials. The student wing, the Students' Federation of India, aided by some university employees, prevented the new vice-chancellor from entering the campus on his first day. A student strike in a number of places followed.

More trouble lies ahead for Bhattacharya. In the 143-member senate, which lays down university policy, the Left Front government has 97 supporters, 71 of them CPM members. In the 35-member syndicate, which executes policy, the government has 25 members, 19 of them CPM. In the undergraduate council, which oversees the working of affiliated colleges, 10 members are Left Front men, eight of them CPM. Even the university non-teaching employees' union is controlled by the Marxists. A CPM senate member has warned: "There can be no question of unconditional cooperation."



## overseas news

## Reagan to be a Stanford museum piece

from Charlotte Beyers

PALO ALTO

After months of hickering Stanford University has finally made peace with the White House and agreed "in principle" to accept the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum on campus.

The words "in principle" mean that both sides must still decide the site of the library, the architectural style and, most important, what will happen to the controversial Reagan Center for Public Affairs.

Mr. Donald Kennedy, Stanford's president, said that the university's board of trustees approved the project because the White House finally capitulated. Reagan is offering his presidential papers to Stanford with no strings attached.

"We are pleased the president's papers will come to our campus. The library will be a valuable adjunct to the Hoover," Kennedy said.

The fate of the Center for Public Affairs is still uncertain. Earlier the White House had wanted the library to be part of a package tied to the public affairs centre, which would be controlled by the Hoover Institution. The Hoover is a conservative think tank and lists Reagan as an honorary fellow.

Stanford insisted that the centre would be run by the university or not at all. Stanford won the battle. Presidential counsellor Edwin Meese wrote conceding that the university could have the library and museum and that the policy centre would be a separate matter.

To clarify this letter or perhaps motivated by the

shock of victory, Donald Kennedy and William Kimball, head of Stanford's board of trustees, wrote to the White House requesting more information. Stanford received a letter saying the package deal was off and that the library was Stanford's.

The library would be under the control of the National Archives. Preliminary cost estimates indicate that about \$65m in private gift support would be required, including \$40 to \$45m for construction and about \$20m for the public affairs centre.

Round two will concern the public affairs centre. At a press conference held recently, Donald Kennedy did not rule out the possibility that it might not come about at all.



## Cure for rural health crisis

by Thomas Land

Brazil will soon launch a daring experiment in medical education which seeks to erect universities without walls whose graduates are prepared to serve the neglected rural areas.

The project enjoys the enthusiastic support of the United Nations World Health Organization (WHO). It has also attracted the intense interest of educational planners around the globe's hungry belt. The WHO is nudging them to rethink their budgets and to introduce drastic economies in the training of highly qualified health professionals. Brazil intends to do just that.

Its project is described in the current issue of *World Health Forum* by Gladstone Rodrigues da Cunha Filho, the higher education secretary at the ministry of education in Brasilia. "The traditional student/professor model of teaching will be discarded in favour of one in which the student is actively involved with, and learning from, the community from the beginning of his training," he says.

"Such a practical learning experience will provide students with invaluable

insight into the social and health problems of the community and make them better able to adapt and respond to rapidly changing social needs."

He explains: "It is easy for a training course organized on a formal basis and conducted within a training institution gradually to lose touch with reality." Brazil would therefore integrate university health science schools with the national health care service so that "most of the teaching should be carried out in general hospitals, outpatient clinics, health centres and rural posts and at family and community levels."

Brazil's much vaunted educational reforms are in line with the conclusions of a discussion paper just published by the WHO. This argues that the developing countries may be putting the lives of millions at risk by spending up to 80 per cent of their health budgets on doctors - whose training tends to divorce them from the communities they should serve.

The WHO argues that the major health problems of the hungry world could be best solved through primary health care essentially concerned with the prevention of disease.

## 'No nudes' is not such good news

Drawing from the nude does not constitute obscenity, comrade Qian Shaowu, Peking Radio's resident expert on spiritual pollution declared recently. Properly conducted life classes in art schools are, on the contrary, indispensable. The fact that some nudes are nude studies for other purposes and violate discipline in drawing from the nude should not affect one's attitude to the scientific studies of human bodies and their movement which is an essential foundation for the art of realism.

The question of nude studies, said Qian, has long been a matter for ideological debate. In the 1930s, there was an intense struggle against the warlord Sun Quansheng, which resulted in a victory for the pro-nude lobby. Socialism, he said, provided the conditions in which the matter could be settled scientifically, and in 1964, Chairman Mao formally pronounced in favour of life classes. During the cultural revolution, however, drawing from the nude was considered a hot bed for cultivating young revisionist successors. Following the fall of the Gang of Four, the education office of the Ministry of Culture issued a circular advocating the reintroduction of life classes in art schools.

The launching by the central committee last autumn of a drive against spiritual pollution (alleged traces in Chinese society of Western pornography and permissiveness) raised the question of nude models once again, although Qian assured his listeners, the two matters are in no way connected.

Nevertheless, he urged that in the present situation drawing from the nude should be restricted to specialized academies or units under the direction of properly qualified teachers. What these special circumstances are, he did not specify. Recent scandals, however, which involved the sons of several high party officials, who allegedly took part in nude dancing parties and re-photographed and circulated centrefolds from *Playboy*, resulted in the execution of the accused on the formal charge of rape.

## Pathologist wins prestige rectorship

by Sarah Jane Evans

The rector of Spain's largest university was elected this month to see through the reforms outlined in the new Universities Act. To critics of "Fascists out of the university," "No dictators" and clenched fists from some of the voting delegates, Amador Schuller Pérez, professor of pathology in the medical faculty, was declared the winner of the seven-man contest at Madrid's Complutense University.

This is a key appointment because the Complutense University by its size is very influential. The decisions the director takes now on how to interpret the Act will have a spin-off effect on tertiary education as a whole.

The Bill on university reform was one of the earlier pieces of legislation introduced by the socialist administration of Prime Minister Felipe González after it came to power just over a year ago.

An earlier Bill on university autonomy (*Ley Orgánica de Autonomía Universitaria*) proposed by the previous centre government had foundered on attacks from academics and from the left. The left criticized it for its encouragement of private universities and for raising the possibility of higher student fees.

University teachers on the establishment objected to the proposal that non-tenured staff should be given tenure without having to take the hitherto usual competitive examinations. And the autonomous regions complained that the law offered no autonomy at all - that it actually took away power from the regions to administer their own education.

Under the new Act, the universities are independent but linked to their autonomous region. The rectors are chosen by a council of staff and students and this new administration is then free to take control over a greatly increased range of powers.

The universities now become independent entities administering their own budgets, negotiating research contracts with outside bodies and producing their own syllabuses and courses.

During the Franco years, researchers in Spain's universities had very limited contacts with their colleagues round the world. The freedoms allowed under the new Act have been widely welcomed in terms of the

academic and financial benefits they will bring.

The Act also brought in some changes to teachers' conditions. The much-criticized competitive examinations run by the ministry for all appointments have been abolished and replaced by a much more reasonably system of public examination of candidates.

The number of grades of teacher has been reduced to four, doing away with the previous army of unregistered staff providing a kind of cheap labour. At the same time, staff are expected to be more committed to their jobs. The amount of time that has been spent "moonlighting" on other jobs is to be strictly controlled.

There were seven candidates for the rectorship of the Complutense University which, by its size and resources, has an influence on policy-making throughout higher education. All the candidates are professors from the university - two lawyers, an engineer, an economist, two social scientists and a professor of medicine.

Their manifestos, in greater or lesser degree, express their desire to implement the spirit of the Act. They all draw attention to the need to improve the quality of the teaching and support available to staff.

The new rector is number 352 in the list of rectors which began in 1829 and was chosen by a council of 100. He has less than a year to introduce the new statutes of the university.

Prof. Schuller, who is president of the Spanish Internal Medicine Society, runs the most oversubscribed faculty in Spain. Though the principle of open access to university education for all qualified applicants is the rule in Spain, the Complutense operates a quota system in its medical faculty. The professor has declared himself in favour of restricted entry procedures for other faculties in a university which is notorious for overcrowding.

In his manifesto he committed himself to restructuring the staff appointment system, which until recently was based on staff on short term contracts. Prof. Schuller declared himself against the angry cries of his opponents with the words, "I am a liberal." It is clear that he will introduce any major innovations under the freedom available to him in the new Act.

## Languages hit an all-time low in the US

from P. E. Burke

Foreign language studies both at college and high school levels in the US are at their lowest ebb. There are signs of increasing interest, but not in Romance languages which have been traditionally taught but in what has been described as "exotic," "world-strategic" and "ethnic" languages.

During the past decade there have been significant increases in colleges for the following languages: Arabic (160 per cent increase), Chinese (82 per cent), Japanese (74 per cent), and with much smaller numbers, Yiddish (276 per cent), Polish (73 per cent) and Swedish (38 per cent).

Richard Brod, director of the foreign language programme of the Chicago-based Modern Language Association, said that the study of foreign languages is being taught in only 15 per cent of high schools. Only 4 per cent of high school teachers have completed more than two

years of foreign language study. American colleges began to drop both entrance and graduation language requirements in the mid 1960s. Some 90 per cent of all US colleges and universities have dropped language requirements since 1974.

The black pressure groups say that the language requirement at college level is "most odious" for both black and white students. Colleges have noted that students which drop language requirements are more likely to drop out.

Paul Griffiths, educational consultant with the Illinois Board of Education said: "There are a lot of arguments for teaching our languages. We ought to begin to look at them for international reasons, not just for economic and political well-being and ethnic identity."

For graduates in the humanities the problem is not a lack of congenial employment but the lack of any suitable job.

## overseas news

## Lack of research increases health costs

from E. Patrick McQuaid

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## Recession catches up on graduates

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Robert Jenevin, president of the student body and captain of the university football team said: "this reaction does not change our belief that it is a good idea but it changes how we shall go about it."

A spokesman for the "tie-less" pressure group said: "As long as we are 'decently dressed' and I would rather leave it vague. I do not think that we have the right to tell them how to dress."

The circumstances at a "tied" university, the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee, were explained by its public relations officer, Lathan Davis: "The dress code is a tradition supported and enforced by the students, and is not a university rule."

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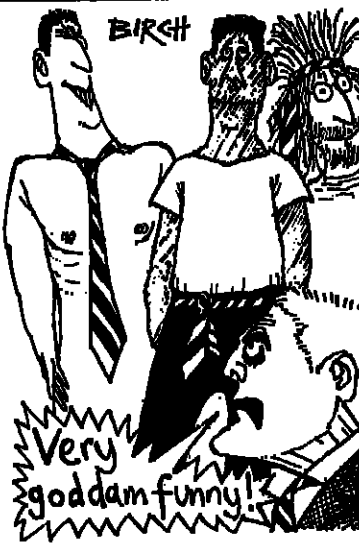
BOMBAY

Troubled times lie ahead for Calcutta University as the controversy over the appointment of its new vice-chancellor, Santosh Bhattacharya, looks set to become an academic and a political cause celebre.

The Marxist government of West Bengal state recommended the retention in his post of Ramen Poddar. Normally, the governor of the state (the chancellor of the university), although a federal appointee, chooses as vice-chancellor whoever the local government proposes from three candidates elected by the senate. Constitutionally, higher education is a provincial, not a federal, responsibility.

But the governor, Mr. A. P. Sharma, decided to go strictly by the number of votes polled in the university's elections for the post. Thanks to the Marxists, Bhattacharya got more votes than Poddar and was appointed. Immediately, there was a hue and cry.

The Left Front government, dominated by the Communist Party of India (Marxist), accused the governor of flouting convention because, as a former member of Mrs Gandhi's Congress (I) party, he wanted the vice



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CWN



## Jon Turney visits the SERC's Spallation Neutron Source

## Beams away!

If you want to see a construction project which involves everything from heavy civil engineering to the most delicate electronic control, you should visit the Rutherford-Appleton laboratories in Oxfordshire. Here, the largest establishment run by the Science and Engineering Research Council, the 200-strong team building the Spallation Neutron Source is heading for the final stages of an eight-year project. The first university researchers should set up their experiments on the machine before the end of the year.

What university researchers want are slow neutrons - lots of them. The Rutherford staff, who will tell you at every turn that their job is to serve the universities, are getting ready to oblige. Neutrons are informative particles because, having no electric charge, they pass through the electrons which occupy most of the space in solids and interact with atomic nuclei. So the behaviour of objects under intense neutron bombardment tells physicists and biologists things they cannot find out by other means like X-rays.

But building a neutron source powerful enough for researchers' current needs is far beyond the resources of any single academic department. Hence the need for a central facility. "Spallation" in the machine's title simply means that the neutrons are a secondary product, generated by bombarding a uranium target with high-energy particles from an accelerator. This is similar to the reaction taking place in a normal atomic reactor, and other research centres like the Institut Laue-Langevin in Grenoble use a reactor as a neutron source. However, as experimenters want short pulses of neutrons of known energy, most of the reactor output is wasted. Using an accelerator means the whole apparatus can be tailored to produce a more intense series of neutron beams without such waste.

House-training neutrons like this is still expensive - the whole project has cost around £45m. But using Rutherford as a base helps make the Spallation Neutron Source a good deal cheaper than it would be if the builders started from scratch. For a start, it is housed in the buildings which once gave a home to the Nimrod accelerator used for particle physics research. Nimrod was closed when the council decided to concentrate its money for

particle physics at CERN in Geneva. The fact that the SNS is being built for the SERC's science board shows both how the Rutherford laboratory has diversified, and how the "small scientists", solid state physicists and biologists, now often need big facilities.

It takes David Gray, the genial head of the project, well over an hour to walk a visitor around the SNS buildings. That is one measure of the scale. The machine falls into three parts, the plan view looking like an enormous train set. First there is a linear accelerator, in which negative hydrogen ions (H<sup>-</sup>) are sent down a column, largely made from parts salvaged from Nimrod, which accelerates them by applying an electro-magnetic field. When they reach the end of the linear track they are moving at one third of the speed of light, but this is still not fast enough.

To increase their energy the hydrogen ions are injected into a second accelerator, a circular proton synchrotron. Before entry into the synchrotron ring, the negative ions are stripped of their two electrons by passing through a thin metal foil. This trick, which produces positively charged hydrogen ions, or protons, gets around physical restrictions governing the intensity of the particle beam in the synchrotron. In the synchrotron, as in the rest of the system, the beam is steered by powerful magnets, while further electro-magnetic acceleration increases the energy of each proton ten-fold in the time it takes to travel round the ring 15,000 times - about one hundredth of a second.

The trickiest engineering is mostly needed for the synchrotron hall. For ions to pass round - the complete circuit is more than 160 metres - must be accurate to within one tenth of a millimetre in every dimension. Less obvious, David Gray points to the ceramic sections of the ring, which avoid heating of metal parts by the powerful magnets used. The five metre curved ceramic tubes which follow the path of the bending magnets are at the limits of available technology. The same goes for the signal amplifiers which keep the radiofre-

quency applied in phase with the protons as they accelerate round the ring. These must have the sensitivity of a good hi-fi, but put out a current of 50 Kw, 1,000 times the power of an average domestic hi-fi system.

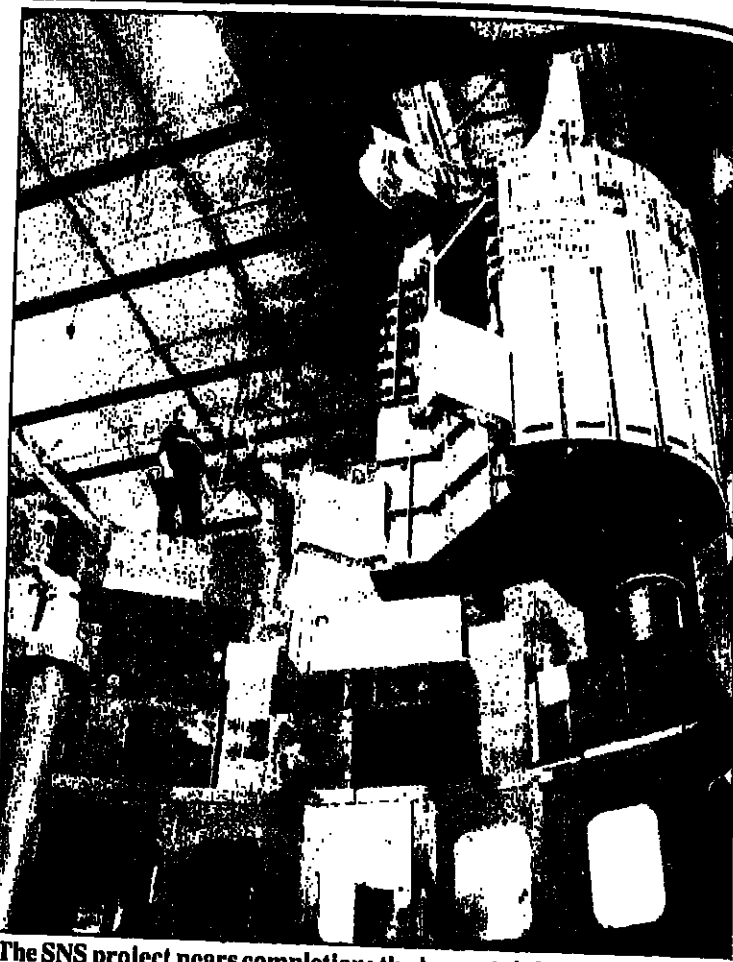
A large array of devices must move in step if the synchrotron is to produce a well-behaved proton beam at the right energy. The ring is festooned with diagnostic instruments to monitor the beam and tell a complex computerized control system network what adjustments to make to magnets and biasing currents. If everything works as it should - and the first slug of protons passed round the ring a few weeks ago - the rest is relatively simple.

Two very powerful additional magnets kick the proton beam out of the ring and it is guided down a straight track to hit a small uranium target in the cavernous SNS experimental hall. Neutrons at last!

The target station is a major engineering project by itself. The synchrotron ring and target beam line are already heavily shielded, but when protons hit the uranium things begin to get really radioactive. The target is inside a steel vessel welded to nuclear reactor standards and will be shrouded in more steel and concrete. The entire assembly, shielding and all, tracks back on rails to a service point where remote handling arms will be fitted for installing and dismantling the uranium target. The target assembly also includes a set of moderators, for the neutrons produced so abundantly are moving too fast for experimenters' needs. Different moderators give the desired range of neutron spectra.

While production of neutrons is the end of one story, it will be only the starting point for a mass of new work. There are around 300 British users registered for the neutron facility at Rutherford, and most of them will now look for time on the much more intense SNS. The experimental hall at Rutherford, now largely empty, will soon be filled with the instruments devised by prospective university users.

In many cases, the information gleaned from response to neutron bombardment will complement data



The SNS project nears completion: the huge stainless steel target vessel is swung into position at the end of the extracted beam line.

from other experiments. For example, neutrons of the right energy can be diffracted by a regular crystal, as X-rays can, and the patterns obtained used to deduce crystal structures of complex biological molecules like proteins.

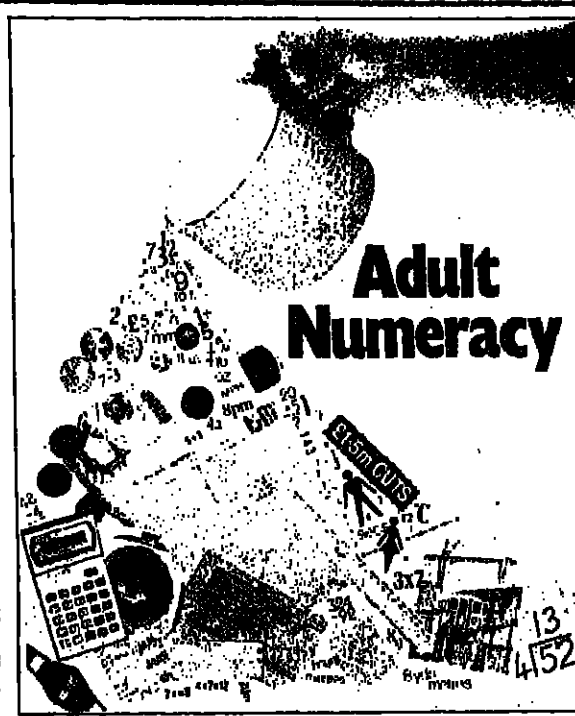
The entire project exemplifies many aspects of the current research scene. It should be a productive link between the technical and theoretical skills developed at Rutherford over the years and the needs of the wider scientific community in universities and polytechnics. As with most SERC projects, there has never been quite enough money, and the construction programme has been scheduled to match the flow of cash. The council now needs international partners to pay for experimental stations if the new machine is to be used to full capacity. These organizational efforts

are rapidly becoming traditional features of British science policy. Aside from this, though, the SNS also provides a striking demonstration of the way theory and the instrument of a field of inquiry can develop in tandem. The complex of machines making up the SNS embodies an extraordinary network of assumptions - about the way computer programs work, the behaviour of nuclear particles, the properties of engineering materials, and the reliability of monitoring devices. And while, strictly, users do not need to know any of this as long as the right kind of neutrons come out of the right hole, all these assumptions will be tested each time a beam is generated. It would be interesting if a few philosophers of science joined the academic scientists who will flock to the Rutherford lab at the end of the year.

## Literacy unit counts on the next ten years

As ALBSU lays down its challenge for the future Maggie Richards looks back at its innovative work.

The unit's leaflet on numeracy, available from its office in High Holborn, London.



Somewhere in a filing tray at Elizabeth House sits a slim volume in a lilac and mauve cover. Attached to it, and presumably awaiting ministerial sanction, will be recommendations for the future of a small agency which has made one of the most significant contributions to adult education in the last decade.

What the Open University achieved at the top end of the academic scale, the Adult Literacy and Basic Skills Unit has mirrored along the bottom line. Both agencies were instrumental in pioneering distance learning techniques and both relied heavily on the efforts of their outreach tutors.

But, unlike the swift progress at the top end which led to the establishment of the OU, awareness of illiteracy as a problem and attempts to tackle it were slow to develop. Among those most prominent in pursuing the issue in the early 1970s was the British Association of Settlements. Feedback from its Cambridge House settlement in London indicated the possibility of a large and unmet demand for adult literacy tuition. Few local education authorities offered such provision, and much of what was available centred on children's books or remedial material.

From the scanty statistics available the settlements association calculated up to two and a half million people in Britain were semi-literate - ie failing to possess the reading skills of an average nine-year-old.

The settlements association began to press for urgent parliamentary reform. Between 1972 and 1975 workshops and conferences focused on the problem, and the issue eventually reached the House of Commons in response to the growing pressure, the Adult Literacy Resource Agency, with a budget of £1m, was established in April 1975.

But one factor above all others contributed to bringing literacy to the forefront of public attention. The BBC ran *On The Move*, a series of short television programmes aimed at viewers with literacy problems and screened at peak viewing hours. It was backed by a national telephone helpline service, operated in conjunction with local education authorities through the new literacy agency, and appealed for volunteers to become tutors.

The response was overwhelming. The literacy movement was swamped with clients and prospective tutors. Current director of the agency Mr Alan Wells recalls those heady days with mixed feelings: "Amazing numbers of people were stimulated by the programmes and came forward to take part. It is true. But we would have 100 students coming forward to take part in a particular scheme and then, within months it had risen to 400, with another 100 on the waiting list. To try to enlarge your scheme at that rate with inexperienced tutors was extremely difficult."

"There was no way of controlling supply and demand. A lot of potential students did not get help quickly enough or in the way that they needed so they dropped out. We found too that the programmes motivated students but their interest diminished when the television series finished."

And there were still considerable numbers of people not prepared to come forward. By the end of the agency's first year, it was clear the demand for literacy provision had by no means been fully taken up; and it was given a further two years' lease of

life. At the end of that period, in 1978, the agency could boast that every local education authority now offered adult literacy classes.

Attitudes about the nature of the provision had changed too. As the literacy schemes took root at local level and the impact of the television series began to wane, students with different needs began to emerge.

The DES accepted in 1978 the agency's assertion that "the further development of adult literacy needs to be considered in the context of a strategy for adult basic education as a whole", and handed the task of further investigation over to the new Advisory Council for Adult and Continuing Education.

The agency was to continue its work for a further two years under a new title, the Adult Literacy Unit, with the remit of "provision for adult literacy, or provision in which adult literacy is a substantial proportion".

By the end of 1979 the agency was able to incorporate numeracy, English as a second language, and basic skills into its programme. It was also given a new name, the Adult Literacy and Basic Skills Unit.

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## Modesty is the policy in the new White Paper

John O'Leary analyses the Government's spending plans which could be out of date by Easter.

There were few surprises for higher education in last week's Expenditure White Paper, but those who were sceptical about previous Government expectations of level funding after 1984/85 will now be convinced that they were right. Education as a whole will only be maintained at its present level if inflation and pay settlements match ministers' optimistic projections, and higher education is restricted to even more modest cash increases.

Indeed, the White Paper makes no bones about the prospects. "For the universities, the cash available will require a measure of increased economy if standards are to be maintained. Provision per student will in any case be reduced as a result of increased admissions during the years of peak demand. Funding for grant-aided institutions will be reduced by about 4 per cent over the period 1984/85 to 1989/90," it says, adding later: "The plans for local authority higher education assume the achievement of a significant tightening in staffing ratios in 1984/85 through the loss of lecturer posts, including some compulsory redundancies... and reductions in unit costs through increased efficiency."

For the public sector, such an analysis was inevitable after the National Advisory Body's planning exercise. The size of the advanced further education pool for 1984/85 was already known and the closure of departments and whole institutions had to mean at least some compulsory redundancies.

But, although the news for the universities is slightly better, the figures do not live up to the Prime Minister's pre-election hopes expressed in her oft-quoted letter to the Association of University Teachers.

Nor is the picture as rosy as last year's White Paper implied. "The cash available should be sufficient to allow the level of provision in each sector to be broadly maintained in 1985/86, subject to an appraisal of the results of construction and of the requirements of each sector of higher education in the long term," it said.

Now the plans for the universities allow for increases of 3 per cent and little over 2 per cent in 1985/86 and 1986/87, which is consistent with the whole education programme but seems hardly likely to cover costs, even on the current projections for student numbers. Since they are almost certain to rise when revised projections emerge from consultations with the vice chancellors and the Royal Society, the increases begin to look decidedly small.

Last week's budgets were based on the lower level of participation calculated in the student number projections produced by the Department of Education and Science. They have not been divided between the universities and the public sector, but they forecast declining admissions to full-time courses from now on, bringing 6,000 fall in total numbers by 1989/90. Should these estimates prove too pessimistic, as analysts inside the system contend, there will necessarily be a further squeeze on funding levels unless the Government provides more resources.

The big loser next year, however, appears to be adult education, which suffers a cut of more than 21 per cent, from £91m to £72m. The position is only marginally improved over the remaining two years covered by the White Paper since the adult education budget rises again to £90m in 1985/86 but then is held at that level.

Only science and the voluntary colleges can take much satisfaction from the new spending plans. Yearly increases of 4.5 per cent, a little more than 3 per cent and 4 per cent are said to be sufficient for the level of scientific provision to be "broadly maintained", with a little extra money included to allow for the sharply rising cost of international subscriptions.

£m cash

|                                                                  | 1980/1 | 1981/2 | 1982/3 | 1983/4 | 1984/5 | 1985/6 | 1986/7 |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| <b>Higher and further education (including teacher training)</b> |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| Universities                                                     | 113    | 119    | 120    | 121    | 124    | 130    | 130    |
| Capital                                                          |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| Non-universities                                                 | 109    | 86     | 88     | 91     | 73     | 80     | 80     |
| Capital                                                          |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| Universities                                                     | 1,013  | 1,043  | 1,258  | 1,305  | 1,338  | 1,380  | 1,410  |
| Current                                                          |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| Voluntary and direct grant                                       | 79     | 82     | 90     | 94     | 98     | 103    | 106    |
| Current                                                          |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| Maintained sector advanced                                       | 444    | 487    | 599    | 600    | 585    | 600    | 620    |
| Current                                                          |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| Student awards                                                   | 783    | 883    | 796    | 811    | 816    | 820    | 840    |
| Maintained sector non-advanced (except adult education)          |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| Current                                                          | 713    | 827    | 901    | 977    | 962    | 980    | 1,000  |
| Adult                                                            | 69     | 77     | 82     | 91     | 73     | 80     | 80     |

|                             |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
|-----------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Total education             | 629    | 626    | 629    | 616    | 448    | 460    | 480    |
| Capital                     | 9,876  | 10,864 | 11,871 | 12,323 | 12,054 | 12,410 | 12,580 |
| Current                     |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| Total                       | 10,504 | 11,390 | 12,200 | 12,839 | 12,502 | 12,880 | 13,160 |
| Science                     |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| 10.5 Research councils, etc | 72     | 72     | 75     | 74     | 86     | 90     | 90     |
| Capital                     | 322    | 360    | 407    | 444    | 465    | 480    | 500    |
| Current                     |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| Total science               | 393    | 451    | 482    | 517    | 550    | 570    | 590    |

|                             |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
|-----------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Total education and science | 700    | 698    | 604    | 590    | 533    | 550    | 570    |
| Capital                     | 10,187 | 11,243 | 12,078 | 12,766 | 12,519 | 12,900 | 13,180 |
| Current                     |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| Total programme             | 10,898 | 11,841 | 12,682 | 13,356 | 13,052 | 13,450 | 13,750 |

|                                                                                             |                                               |             |        |        |        |           |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-------------|--------|--------|--------|-----------|
| <b>Student numbers</b>                                                                      | <b>thousands</b>                              |             |        |        |        |           |
|                                                                                             | <b>Home students (full-time and sandwich)</b> |             |        |        |        |           |
|                                                                                             | 1981/2                                        | 1982/3      | 1983/4 | 1984/5 | 1985/6 | 1986/7    |
|                                                                                             | Actual                                        | Provisional |        |        |        | Projected |
| <b>Undergraduates in universities (GB) and advanced course students elsewhere (England)</b> | 415                                           | 431         | 444    | 449    | 449    | 443       |
| of which                                                                                    |                                               |             |        |        |        |           |
| Admissions                                                                                  | 143                                           | 147         | 150    | 149    | 148    | 144       |
| Postgraduates                                                                               | 41                                            | 38          | 36     | 40     | 41     | 40        |
| Age participation rate GB (%)                                                               | 13.2                                          | 13.4        | 13.8   | 14.3   | 14.3   | 14.2      |

|                                                                                                                                        |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| <b>Part-time students in higher education: Universities (GB), the Open University and advanced course students elsewhere (England)</b> | 270 | 274 | 274 | 274 | 274 | 274 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|

## Patricia Santinelli looks at a new book which deals with changes in training since the Robbins era

## Educating Teacher

By last Friday the Secretary of State for Education would have received the last responses to what is widely regarded as one of the most blatant exercises in further centralization of power in teacher education for some 20 years.

Sir Keith Joseph's determination to gather the reins of government much closer to his chest was outlined in the Department of Education and Science's draft circular on teacher training in December.

This proposed the setting up of a Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education, one reporting directly to and with members nominated by the Secretary of State, and new criteria against which all teacher training courses will be tested.

These new instruments of central power which were recommended last summer by the Advisory Committee for the Supply and Education of Teachers have already caused great concern, particularly when so little time for consultation was allowed - unless one counts the period since the publication last March of the White Paper *Teaching Quality* which first spelled out many of the criteria.

Concern over Sir Keith's intent to seize more powers over teacher education and the growing influence of Her Majesty's Inspectorate in this field within the DES is very much reflected in a new book: *Change in Teacher Education context and provision since Robbins*, which unfortunately despite its central contribution to an extremely important issue will not be published until April.

By then CATE and the new standards will probably have become inescapable realities in a teacher education scene which is already suffering from an overdose of interventionist policies.

Ironically the book reveals that a CATE existed before in the 1980s in the very different shape of the Campaign for the Advancement of Teacher Education which fought against the

then current round of teacher education cuts.

The book, to be published by Holt, Rinehart and Winston, is all the more important, because it places this growing centralism in teacher education in the context of some radical developments in higher education, three sets of rationalization for teacher education, spelling out the major role played by demographic trends and looking ahead to future needs.

As the introduction of the book points out the contrast between the 1960s and 1980s could hardly be greater. Lord Robbins reported during a period of economic expansion, when education was seen as a key both to personal fulfilment and to national salvation.

"But by the 1980s education like other areas is increasingly being called to account for national economic failure, a rising level of social disorder, lack of national purpose," the editors say.

These dramatic educational and social changes, the editors argue, have been far more reflected in the field of teacher education than in any other because of its unique position, caught as it is between the worlds of school and higher education. Indeed they describe it as the litmus paper of society.

"We are struck by the paradox that in a period of progressive democratization in our national life, a process reflected in schools, teacher education, institutions and validation procedures, there has also been a marked centralisation of government," the editors say.

The book offers as many diverse and some quite distinctly contradictory accounts of this period as there are contributors (about 20). For example Dr William Taylor, principal of the University of London and rumoured to

be Sir Keith's choice as chairman of CATE, may agree on certain developments with Mr Gerald Fowler, director of North-East London Polytechnic, and an earlier minister of education, but not as to why they occurred.

Other well-known figures among its contributors who span the world of universities, polytechnics and colleges are Professor Alex Rose of Lancaster University, Professor Maurice Craft of Nottingham University school of education, one of the editors of the book with Robin Alexander of Leeds University and James Lynch of Sunderland Polytechnic.

In his contribution *Change and Continuity in Teacher Education* which is also an effective summary of some of the issues covered by the book, Professor Craft points out that the growing central control of teacher education is taking place in the context of increasingly centralized educational planning.

"The closure of the Schools Council with its strong professional links and the publishing of detailed ministerial evidence on 16-plus examination criteria has been paralleled in higher education by the direct funding of education by the direct training, and by the determination of 'new blood' and other kinds of university appointments in specific and specified areas," Professor Craft says.

Referring to the newly proposed criteria, he stresses that much will depend on implementation, and that for example too tight a match between a level and BEd specialization may exclude lively initiative, while former, and restrict recruitment to traditional subjects. Moreover, a CATE which is not independent is unlikely to be beneficial.

As Lawton comments, "the hurry to push through the reforms which

so little time for discussion. It also seems strange that a Conservative administration avowing 'freedom' should set up machinery that could so easily be abused by future politicians."

One solution he sees as an alternative to central government control is the long overdue General Teaching Council which would be concerned with the control of admission, accreditation, and professional standards.

Professor Alex Ross who is equally in favour of a General Teaching Council takes a far more forgiving view of government interference, and puts the blame squarely on the profession itself.

He points out that what some have interpreted as unnecessary intrusion by the Secretary of State into matters which more properly should have been left to the profession is in part legitimate because of Sir Keith's responsibility for conferring qualified teacher status.

"Such a duty continues because the profession itself has not managed to create a professional body which could take on the duty of regulating entry to and dismissal from the profession," Professor Ross says. "The Secretary of State and his predecessors have had to perform to fill a vacuum which does not exist in the case of the legal and medical professions."

Professor Ross stresses that once a professional body has been established, it will undoubtedly wish to exercise control over the content of training programmes, with teacher preparation having a direct say in the profession, thus escaping from the present over-politicization of teacher education.

Professor Ross's unsurprising support for the BEd is bound to be welcomed, particularly as his suggestion that the three-year BEd should be

scrapped is becoming fact already with a majority of institutions running four-year honours courses.

His view of the BEd is not shared by Dr William Taylor in his contribution *The National Context - 1972-1982*. Dr Taylor who was a leading supporter of the PGCE and the universities in ACSET, basically believes that a limited role for the BEd, at least at secondary level is inevitable.

It would have been useful if Dr Taylor had enlarged on reasons why the BEd lost its importance gradually to be replaced by the PGCE as the main route to secondary teacher training. He does not explain that decline in the BEd took a dive in 1980 from which it has recovered, mainly because of the new requirements for maths and English O level.

Dr Taylor's point that the trend towards university-based degrees plus PGCE modules of training would be to be replaced by the PGCE as the main route to secondary teacher training, with local education authorities through the new literacy agency, and appealed for volunteers to become tutors.

The response was overwhelming. The literacy movement was swamped with clients and prospective tutors. Current director of the agency Mr Alan Wells recalls those heady days with mixed feelings: "Amazing numbers of people were stimulated by the programmes and came forward to take part. It is true. But we would have 100 students coming forward to take part in a particular scheme and then, within months it had risen to 400, with another 100 on the waiting list. To try to enlarge your scheme at that rate with inexperienced tutors was extremely difficult."

"It is therefore easy to see the attraction of governments towards the consecutive PGCE route. The last time for adjusting the system to potential pupils is greatly reduced. At the same time this is indeed a cheap way of providing teachers."

Mr Fowler sheds interesting light on the events of the immediate post-Robbins period and the two opposed schools of thought within the DES. One championed by Sir Anthony Part favoured teacher training being put under the aegis of universities, while Sir Toby Weaver's philosophy favoured local authority control.



## Bernard Crick

### Homage to Catalonia and the British Council

The Hotel Colon is in the Plaza Nueva opposite the Cathedral in the Barrio Gotico, the old quarter of Barcelona. Downstairs or "up-front", as our cousins say, looks better than up. The bedrooms are by no means as grand as the portico, the position or the porters' attention is now all the rage in my Party. When I stayed here last the manager refused to accept Clydesdale notes, which was all my card could extract from a Scottish cash point the night before I flew south. This put me in a spot, so I felt no love for the Colon. Yet it would have been churlish to have refused when the British Council billeted me for the inevitable three days (I swore not to, but I can't avoid naming the holy name again) Orwell conference on la colaboración Institución de Estudios Catalanes, Universitat de Barcelona, Associació de Estudios Anglo-Hispanicos, etc (and repeated in Spanish, "Colaboración" means ostentatiously as far as I could induce, taking John Wain and I out to first-class fish restaurants, and on my part enthusiastically attending all the other lectures including his. I even accepted the Mayor's invitation to attend the revival of the Catalan Rock Opera of *Animal Farm*.

However, back to the Hotel Colon. They may suffer from the common phenomenological disjunction between appearance and reality, but they are faithful. A letter was handed to me addressed to "Bernard Crick, Esq, Avenida de la Catedral 7" and marked "Private".

The Times May 25, 1983  
Dear Mr Crick,  
The editor thanks you for the letter you kindly sent recently, which has been read with interest. He regrets, however, that it has not been possible to find a place for it in the correspondence columns.

Yours sincerely  
A. Jones.  
Two points arise: (a) the four star faithfulness of the Colon for keeping the letter for 10 months in perfect confidence that I would stay there again; and (b) the one star reliability of human memory (of which I became so aware as a biographer like all those old people talking so confidently to camera on the recent BBC series). For I have not the slightest memory of what I wrote to them about to merit such a personal, signed rejection from A. Jones, Esq.

It must have been pretty strong (a) to get rejected at all and (b) for me to have used a hotel address rather than my B\*st\* College address. I've made good use of *The Times* letters' column in public debate on constitutional issues (never political), ranging from British-Irish relations to the reform (ie abolition) of London government (The Mayor was sorry to hear about that). I actually met *The Times* chief editor writer at a party recently at a certain embassy, and he expressed disappointment that I had not replied to his latest long one on Ireland. I said I would when I had something new to say in anti-thesis and when he had something new to say in thesis. (Actually I did reply, elsewhere, there's a limit to how much free copy I can offer the proprietors.)

But it might well have been on the Argentine, for in Spain I was moved by the view that while our Falkland campaign was accidentally helpful in providing the finishing touches to the dictatorship, we ought to follow it through by giving any new possible parliamentary regime the greatest help possible: an honourable settlement - "sovereignty" for them, practical control under treaty for us.

Spain's actually think, from their own recent history, that the safety of

democracy in the Argentine is more important than a British leader's pride. Or it could have been almost anything I had read in *The Times*. I've said before that when travelling in far lands one finds the odd copy, it arouses such exaggerated filial expectations that, on actually reading it, it always more disappointed - especially at what used to be the features page (authoritative and considered articles) but is now a kind of therapeutic free-expression board for opinionated ranters.

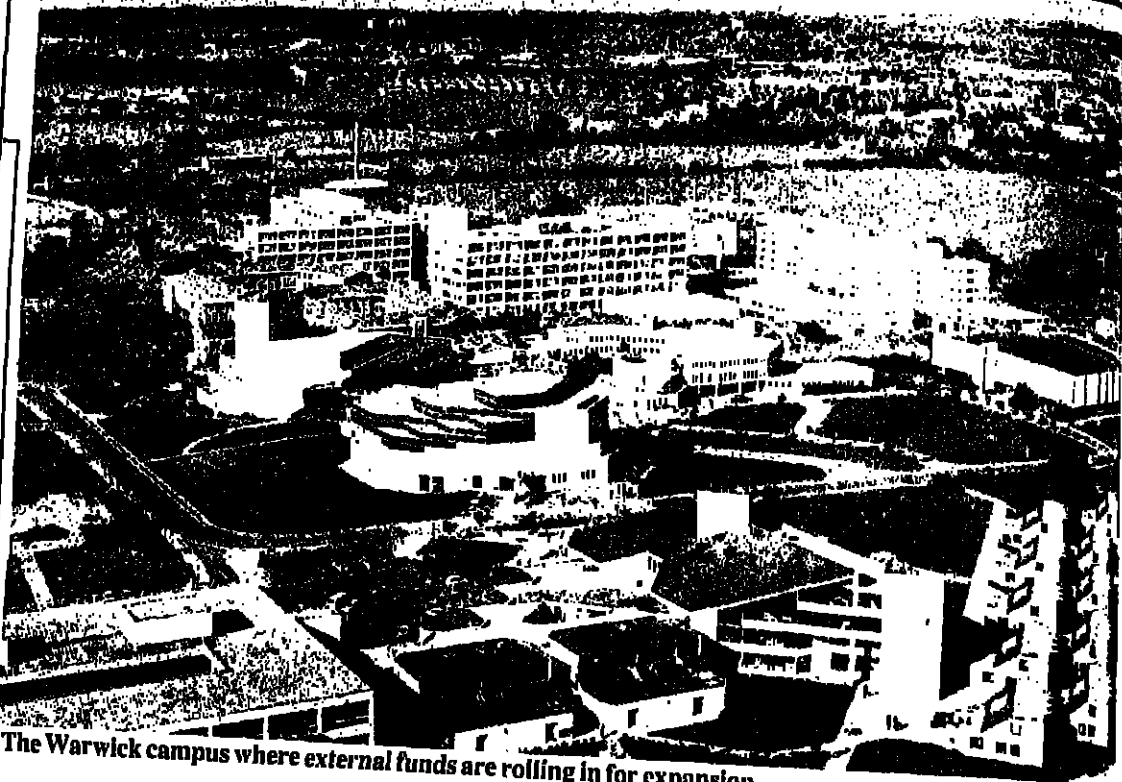
Back to Barcelona, however. The interest in things English and in Orwell is astonishing, as is the depth of local knowledge: three days of excellent papers by Spanish and Catalan scholars on many aspects of his work, not just *Nineteen Eighty-Four* and *Homage to Catalonia*. Indeed the latter can be somewhat disappointing to a Catalan. Orwell seems to have had very little idea where he was, rather than any province of Spain of that name. He called the language that everyone spoke "Spanish". An old ILP comrade of his who came out with a BBC television team last year said that he could remember only the Spanish swear words. But the words he recognized when put to him were in fact, Catalan.

Yet they Catalans see Orwell as a free spirit and a man who tried to live his principles: he came to fight to preserve a republic. They are sardonically aware that most of the famous English intellectuals who came to Spain did not get mud on their boots. One did a little broadcasting, another attended a congress of anti-Fascist Intellectuals and another came to get his boy-friend home. Yet the fighters came to fight, not to study the culture. They went quickly into the line and, in the case of the whole ILP contingent, not just Orwell, had to leave equally hastily with the Communists at their heels. The Catalans, however, respect to Orwell's courage and eccentricity, and have become interested in his work generally not just politically, though not uncritically. They are celebrating him as a great common writer.

Actually this is what is happening in lots of English schools. The press took up *Nineteen Eighty-Four* and 1984 with massive overkill and a silly reduction of a perennial satire to a false, schoolish and adult education centres are having festivals of Orwell, to celebrate the last serious (and comic) English writer to reach the common reader.

And the very existence of places like Catalonia refutes Orwell's pessimism. Who would have dreamt 20 years ago that Spain (and Portugal and Greece) would be living under a decent, parliamentary regime? Orwell feared it would be difficult enough to defend the freedom we still had; but some have been clawed back. Or dreamt that a province would be enjoying "autonomy" (federally status)?

Picking up last Tuesday's *Times* on the Rambles I read a wild article by a colleague who seemed to say that any local government was a challenge to sovereignty, law and order, wonder what the Catalans (let alone Welsh and Welsh) think of that. With all they have been through to rejoiners as an autonomous province, they must find that kind of crazy Englishly hard to take. They prefer Orwell's. So do I. But I write in *The Times* as the *Hotel Colon* as address, not the college. Some people are sensitive, though not me.



The Warwick campus where external funds are rolling in for expansion

## Warwick the link maker

### Ngaio Crequer presents an entrepreneurial success story

When Margaret Thatcher (students permitting) visits Warwick University today she will find much to impress her. The story is one of boundless entrepreneurship achieved by dogged effort.

The obstacles for the universities created by her Government's policy in 1981 were in the main not placed in Warwick's path. So far those trying to impress upon the Government how badly the universities were hit and still suffer as a result of 1981, Mrs Thatcher should be seen quickly off the premises.

The university is buoyant. Many departments are now expanding more rapidly than before 1981, external funds are rolling in, physical expansion is muddily apparent with buildings going up in biotechnology, social studies and the arts centre. Mrs Thatcher opens the "Incubator" building in the 24-acre science park today.

Ask Warwick staff if they actually benefited from the cuts and of course like good troopers, they say not and indeed there were minor problems. But 1981 is not a year particularly raged in the Warwick calendar. More honestly, 1978 is one to remember, the year the university merged with the nearby college of education. The difficulty and pain of the negotiations leading to merger left Warwick with a close understanding of local authority people and needs, something it gained from later, when it was strengthening its links with the community.

In specific terms meetings that were called to build bridges between the university and city led eventually to talks, and then action, to create the science park.

The July 1981, letter told Warwick its money cut would go from £12.01m in 1981 to £11.23m in 1983 and it would lose 50 student places. The strategy, decided almost immediately, was to save half and raise half.

It was never forced to freeze all academic posts, as many universities felt they had to, but took deliberate decisions to fill or not, as vacancies arose. It was in the position of being able to say no to staff (under 10) who would have been only limited reduction in numbers of technical and secretarial staff. The flow of sabbatical leave has been virtually the same post-cuts as before.

If one compares the academic establishment (excluding new blood) between 1979/80 and 1984/85 the figures show that arts have lost seven posts, education has lost eight, sciences gained seven and social studies have lost four. Broadly there has been a net loss of 13 academic posts and 10 academic-related.

The stark reality of the University Grants Committee's selectivity has been clear. If one remembers that Midlands neighbour Aston University was forced to shed more than 200 academic jobs because of the economy of its cut.

Warwick was not forced into new directions by the cuts; rather they were pointing in the right direction already.

The biological sciences department, for example, which claims to have the

highest grant income per capita staff in British universities, had long ago made its contacts with industry and established a flow of research grants.

The department was also studying the right thing at the right time and benefited from the UGC biotechnology initiative, gaining three posts.

A new £1m biotechnology laboratory is shortly to be built to accommodate contract research projects. A Wolfson grant gave the spur, and the university will find the rest.

It gained a distinguished reader in biology from Bradford University, whose own department was forced into closure by the cuts. His salary will be paid for eight years by the Science and Engineering Research Council.

The department is expanding more rapidly since the cuts than before. At the time of the cuts there were 1718 staff, by the end of the year it will be up to 28. Staff hold about 36 research contracts at a value of just over £3m.

The department has won a special Medical Research Council grant of £150,000, on top of its normal research grant, as part of a scheme to bolster the dual support system. The UGC gave another £150,000 (unasked for) when the department, "A pat on the head for doing the right thing, without urging," said Dr Jenny Brown.

All this success even though the UGC said there should not be a department of biological sciences when Warwick was founded, but the university supported them notwithstanding.

So were the cuts beneficial? "No, it was just that we were well placed to respond to them. We happened to be the kind of department that is now being favoured," said Dr Brown.

And one difficulty is in admissions. This year we had 1,200 applicants for 37 places. Before the cuts if you were three out in your estimates the university would find the cash. Now if you are one out there are penalties. It is hair-raising.

Warwick would dearly like to expand its science numbers and makes the point frequently to the UGC and, no doubt, its stream of visiting Government ministers.

When it was founded the plan was to have 50 per cent science and 50 per cent arts and social studies but owing to the national unpopularity of science only 30 per cent science numbers. It cannot change round at the expense of the existing humanities but is all ready to go if the UGC lifts its control of numbers.

Certainly if the UGC judges a university by its ability to attract outside research, Warwick is in pole position. It has drawn up a page

table, based on UGC data, to show that it gets more research grants per member of staff in biological sciences, mathematics, physical sciences and technology than any other university. Second is Sussex, then Cambridge, Oxford, London, Edinburgh, Southampton, Leicester, Sheffield and York.

The school of industrial and business studies is another example of expansion and new initiatives. The subject was protected by the UGC in 1981.

The department attracts a high number of overseas students and hopes a result that this will pay for another four posts, because it can keep a percentage of the extra income.

Another two posts, £50,000 per year over five years, have been obtained for manufacturing strategy and policy, paid for by the university's anonymous benefactor, and a private foundation.

Two new projects that will bring in extra income are the Manpower Service Commission's enterprise programme, aimed at encouraging small businesses, and an external MBA, which will be run along the same lines as London's external degree.

One way the university saw to increase its income, and also provide academic accommodation for a growing number of new projects, was to convert a run-down student residence into a conference centre and centre for manufacturing renewal.

Ardon House is an executive postgraduate centre. It is a high quality residential centre with 60 bedrooms but also houses the integrated graduate development programme. This is a scheme by which 90 hand-picked science graduates who will be full-time employees of their companies will blend academic tuition with practical industrial experience over a 2½-year period.

The scheme is funded jointly by Rolls Royce, B.I. and Lucas and the Science and Engineering Research Council.

Much of Warwick's entrepreneurial success of course is due to Professor Kumar Bhattacharya, who became professor of manufacturing systems three years ago. Since then he has attracted research money in excess of £5m.

Ardon House makes a profit of between £30,000 and £50,000 a year. The residences next door will soon be converted to make another 40 bedrooms available and the principal of the former college of education will also be used.

These developments have also helped Warwick to become the largest centre for CAD/CAM, computerized factory automation, training consultancy in Britain.

In numerous ways Warwick is recognizing its role in trying to put the Midlands back on the map in manufacturing, and trying to revive and refresh its industry generally.

According to Mr Joe Rushdon, deputy registrar: "The book, *Warwick University Ltd* in 1969 did us a lot of damage. It has taken us many years internally for us to be entirely happy forming links with industry, and for industry to realize we are here. We are now over that problem."

Most intellectual activities, and physics is no exception, tend to run in fashions. In the case of research this often results in a rapid, sometimes almost explosive, growth of activity in some particular field of interest. Sometimes this growth follows a major innovation, such as the invention of the laser, which made coherent sources of light available for the first time and thus opened up completely new fields.

More often, certainly since the 1940s, such expansion has resulted from the lack of new scientific knowledge required for some exciting, possibly urgent new application: for example, the rapid postwar expansion of nuclear physics research effort to satisfy various national requirements for nuclear power and weapons, which later settled down at a lower but more stable level as an important branch of fundamental research; or the "space-race", motivated by a potent mixture of scientific curiosity and national prestige.

But perhaps the best example in the non-military field is the emergence within the last 30 years of a major new branch of physics, almost entirely in response to the quest for an unlimited and benevolent source of useful energy, based on the process of thermonuclear fusion.

This process, which represents the main source of heat in the sun and stars, depends on the fusing together of the nuclei of light elements, such as hydrogen and helium, accompanied by the release of considerable energy.

The potential political, social and economic advantages of such a form of power production, given that its fuel is almost universally and indefinitely available, and so not subject to blackmail by suppliers, and the reactors both inherently safe and environmentally clean enough to satisfy the most vociferous lobby, make such a prospect most attractive to governments (at least to those who look beyond the next election), especially as the only realistic long-term alternative to fusion for large-scale power generation is the widespread use of fast-breeder fission reactors. This has resulted in the present world-wide fusion research programme which is currently being supported by governments, both individually and collectively, at an annual rate well above \$1,000m.

Most of this expenditure is devoted to finding out just how matter behaves at the extremely high temperatures (around 100 million degrees) necessary even for the easiest of all possible thermonuclear processes to occur on an earth-bound scale.

At such temperatures all matter is completely ionized, ie its atoms no longer exist as such but are decomposed into their constituent positively-charged nuclei and their negatively-charged electrons, now no longer bound to the atoms but free to move. The resulting hot gas of charged particles is called *plasma* and, unlike cold gas, is a good conductor of electricity by virtue of its more-or-less freely moving charged particles. Plasma being a good conductor also means that, in principle, one can control it using magnetic fields and, indeed, all sustained (as distinct from explosive) reactor designs which have been proposed rely on strong magnetic fields to maintain the hot plasma in its proper place.

Although, when the first experimental steps towards fusion were taken in the early 1950s, the general behaviour of plasma was thought to be understood, this belief was based mainly on models devised by astrophysicists who had been theorizing for several years about the properties of fully ionized gas in magnetic fields inside the atmospheres of stars, and had never been tested by experiment.

Such experimental evidence as did exist was based on experience with gas discharges, electron beams, or the propagation of radio waves through the earth's ionosphere, each of which exhibit some plasma-like behaviour. In truth, at the time there was essentially no experience at all with fully ionized plasma, and certainly none at the temperatures required for a fusion reactor.

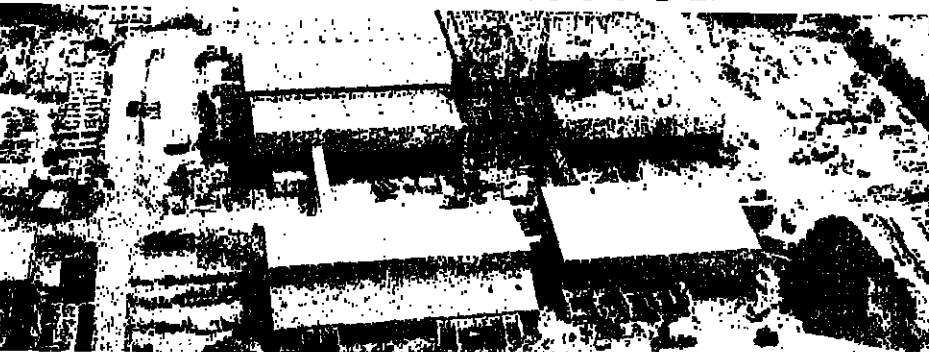
Thus, although it was possible during the first few years to predict with reasonable confidence just what plasma conditions would be necessary in order to produce a self-sustaining thermonuclear "flame" (like a chemical flame but burning nuclei, not atoms), so little was actually known about how plasma would actually behave under such conditions that distinguished physicists could cheerfully make what soon proved to be wildly optimistic predictions on how the necessary conditions would be achieved.

These predictions were based on calculations of how either individual particles or a perfectly conducting conventional fluid would behave in the controlling magnetic field.

In reality, although such simple descriptions of plasma can sometimes be used to predict its behaviour, both the gross oversimplifications and their more genuine tendency to lead to misleading conclusions, since plasma is neither just a large number of particles behaving individually nor a completely homogeneous (continuum) fluid, but a very much more complicated system in which every particle affects to some extent every other one via the fields of their electrical charges.

Notwithstanding the above, to a first approximation the behaviour of bulk plasma can be modelled around the idea that, since its electric fields fall off rapidly with distance from each particle, the mutual interaction between two particles is important mainly when they are close. In that way it is possible to evaluate the bulk properties of the plasma by a statistically appropriate summation of all such close "binary" encounters, provided one includes a correction factor which takes into account the smeared-out effect of all the other more distant charges; this

## Getting to the heart of the matter



Fusion future: the Atomic Energy Authority's lab at Culham.

### S. M. Hamberger on plasma physics and controlled fusion research

factor fortunately turns out to be remarkably insensitive to quite large charges in plasma conditions, such as particle number density and temperature.

Under many circumstances this simple model does indeed give a good description of measurable plasma properties, such as its electrical resistance, or the rate at which it emits and absorbs electromagnetic radiation. One can then extend these ideas to the motion of the material as a whole, using an averaging procedure to absorb the details of the individual particle motions, so that the plasma can be regarded as just another fluid which happens to conduct electricity, like mercury for example. This description is also very frequently useful.

However, there are certain ways in which plasma can exhibit properties which are so unique that it must properly be regarded as a fourth state of matter, ie distinct from the solid, liquid and gas states with which we are familiar because they exist in everyday life. For example, the particles of one charge may for some reason bunch closer together than they would on average so that their collective electrical charges tend to reinforce each other: if this happens the behaviour described above can be greatly modified, and the bulk properties (such as resistance, or radiation emission) vastly altered.

Or, although the particles may be present in astronomically large numbers (a cubic metre of typical laboratory plasma would contain around 10<sup>24</sup> charged particles), each is a discrete individual with its own speed and direction. In general the difference from the appropriate "averages" for the bulk plasma which characterize its temperature and "fluid" motion; thus, there will usually be some particles which happen to move at the same speed and direction as some disturbance or as one of the many possible waves in the plasma, and so interact with it much more strongly than do its fellows, rather like the expert surfer-riding gains energy from an ocean wave. This leads to phenomena of a type which cannot occur in other media.

Once the failure of the early experiments to live up to their expectations became clear, as did the fact that this disappointment was due to our lack of understanding of plasma itself, it became obvious that a great deal of basic research and new understanding would be necessary before physicists could predict with any degree of confidence how plasma would behave.

And so began the long, and sometimes very frustrating, task of learning how to make fully ionized plasma free from contaminating impurities (which tend to radiate the heat away as fast as it was put in); how to design and make the very precise magnetic "bottles" of various shapes to hold the plasma away from the walls of its container; how to make reliable and detailed measurements of the important plasma properties so that the observations could acquire proper quantitative meaning; and, one of the hardest tasks, how to heat plasma from the 100,000 degrees typical of the early 1960s to the 100,000,000 degrees required for fusion. Along with the experimental programme, theoreticians needed to develop new ways of modelling the very complex physical systems.

The details of how this has been achieved are far beyond the scope of this article. It should be said, however, that while every type of magnetic configuration tried was based on its proven ability to confine individual particles, in every instance the plasma, appearing in one or other of its collective roles, found new ways of escaping the other excellent trap. Gradually, as these loss phenomena came to be better understood, both the magnetic configurations themselves and the method of preparing the hot plasma were refined so as to minimize the losses.

An essential adjunct of this process has been the development of the necessary technology required to perform these experiments, in some cases (such as ultra-high vacuum techniques, large-scale computers, superconducting magnets, advanced digital electronics) shared with other "big science" fields, while in others, such as the production of very powerful beams of particles or of millimetre-wavelength radio waves (which, only a decade ago, would have been regarded as quite unrealistic) have been origins

avenues of exchange open to individual scientists, these result from many bilateral agreements (ranging from information exchanges to joint funding and operation of projects), as well as within formal organizations such as Euratom (the EEC countries plus Sweden and Switzerland).

On the grand scale there has been a truly international study of a possible joint "world" experiment, sponsored by the International Atomic Energy Agency, reflecting the possibility that the next round of experiments may be just one expensive (around \$1 billion each) for each one country or consortium to fund. Whether such altruistic collaboration will survive the time, probably not many years off, when commercial considerations become important remains to be seen: there are already signs that the major partners in such design studies, such as EEC or US, might proceed alone.

Not surprisingly, in view of the large costs of building and staffing a new experiment, the research is conducted mainly in large laboratories, either directly operated by governments or in institutions financed under contract by governments.

Many of these government funded laboratories have evolved from universities (eg Princeton, Nagoya, Lawrence Laboratories), and so have natural links with their parent bodies, and all retain close contact with universities, often as sponsors of university based research programmes. Most make their facilities available for postgraduate study, where necessary, as in the case of non-university based laboratories, with appropriate arrangements for academic supervision of students.

In many such cases some laboratory scientists hold joint appointments or visiting professorships in the cooperating universities, while academic staff regularly collaborate, either on a regular basis as consultants or by vacation appointments and sabbaticals, in the work of the larger laboratories.

Despite the increasing emphasis on large, expensive equipment, the universities also contribute quite considerably to the plasma research. In fact, because of their ability to change direction more quickly, provided the resources are available, many of the new ideas evolve and/or are tested first in the universities. One important type of experimental contribution is in the area of new diagnostics, where ideas can be tested on a relatively small scale and later brought to the larger facilities where they are needed. Naturally, theoretical work is less restrictive, provided sufficient access to large computers and to the latest experimental data can be assured, and university-based groups of theorists can contribute on a more equal footing than their experimental colleagues.

The universities have another very important function, not always appreciated: the increasing concentration of effort in the major laboratories on large projects, with well-defined aims and corresponding pressures on their own scientists to achieve those aims, inevitably means that on occasion important scientific problems whose resolution is not absolutely essential to the success of the mission-oriented research can be left temporarily unanswered. Such fundamental matters are, on the other hand, very proper subjects of research by university groups, who are not (or should not be) subject to the same pressures or programmatic constraints as their colleagues in the large laboratories.

Finally, since plasma laboratories around the world have an apparently insatiable appetite for postdoctoral physicists, universities play a vital role in supplying this demand. (By the same token, good students embarking on PhDs in plasma physics can do so with some confidence of a rewarding research career, provided they accept its international nature and are prepared to change country if necessary.) In many universities plasma physics, which did not even exist as a subject only two or three decades ago, now occupies a major role in physics teaching and research.

As far as the main object of all this effort is concerned, the current situation is that all the plasma conditions for achieving fusion ignition have already been met, though not simultaneously because of limited apparatus size, and that actual ignition is likely to be achieved during the 1980s in at least one of the two large experiments (JET in Europe and TFTR in USA) which started up during the past year.

If, as we all hope, this does occur, many problems of engineering, materials technology and economics remain to be studied in a prototype reactor, even though the plasma physicist has apparently done his job.

However, physicists are already working hard at ways to improve on the methods in which the current large experiments are based, and in trying to understand the deeper mysteries of plasma behaviour even though this may not be essential to success in building a fusion reactor (do we yet understand every scientific detail of a coal-fired furnace?). Thus, it appears that plasma physics research will flourish for many years yet because of its potential economic benefits. Once that is no longer the case we can expect the study of the most common state of matter in the universe to return to academia.

Meanwhile, just as medical science pursues its own holy grail of ridding mankind of the scourge of cancer, physical science is trying to make sure the lights remain burning for as long as Man exists. Let us hope that he still does when fusion power is ready for him.

How is this research organized and conducted? One quite characteristic feature has always been its international nature (save for the period 1952/57 when, in hindsight with little justification, it was kept secret in UK and USA in the belief that fusion would be too easy), with collaboration and free movement between scientists from all over the world. In addition to the usual

The author is head of the Plasma Research Laboratory at the Australian National University.



# Christopher Forsyth analyses admissions policy at South Africa's 'open' universities

## Race issue is no open and shut case

For the first time for nearly 25 years, South Africa's major English language universities this year will be free to admit students to most of their faculties without regard to their race. But although this restoration of their traditional autonomy has been welcomed by the English language universities, it poses difficult questions about the racial make-up of their student bodies and their present and future admission policies. Moreover, the government retains the power to reimpose control over the racial composition of the student population.

In 1959 the Extension of University Education Act was passed by the South African parliament. Redolent of "newspaper" this Act denied access to the established universities in South Africa to blacks (using that term to include all that were not white) unless they had been issued with a permit from the executive authorities.

Prior to 1959 the University of Cape Town and the University of the Witwatersrand had adopted a policy of open access: academic not racial criteria had been used in the selection of students. Last year, however, the Universities Amendment Act repealed the Extension of University Education Act thereby abolishing the permit system and leaving the universities free to admit whoever they chose.

This restoration of freedom, however welcome, does not envisage a change of heart on the part of South Africa's rulers. On the contrary, the Universities Amendment Act 1983 envisages only a change in the method in which the racial mix at the "open" universities would be controlled. The Act contains a provision that allows the minister of national education to impose racial and other quotas upon the admission of students; and to withdraw the subsidy from the universities if they fail to comply with the laid down quota.

The "open" universities bitterly opposed this change in the law on the obvious ground that the establishment of a quota system would require the universities themselves (once the quota was full) to turn qualified students away purely on the grounds of their race; while under the permit system it was the government refusal of a permit that excluded a student. The "open" universities were not prepared to do the government's dirty work.

Usually deaf to such protests, on this occasion the minister of national education, Gerrit Viljoen, previously the head of an Afrikaans language university, compromised. Although the Universities Amendment Act 1983 would not be repealed, the quotas envisaged in that Act would not be laid down by the minister.

With no quotas laid down, the universities would be free to admit whoever they chose, except in medicine, dentistry and land surveying, where a permit system would continue to operate for African students. The

important point that emerges from this is that the universities' freedom to admit irrespective of race remains precarious and is liable to be revoked by the minister whenever he is dissatisfied with the racial mix in any faculty at any university.

At the time of the 1959 Act both the "open" universities dedicated themselves to the restoration of their autonomy to admit whom they chose, annual academic freedom lectures were instituted and plaques were erected at each university recording the loss of freedom. The plaque at Wits read in part:

"It is our duty to uphold the principle that a university is a place where men and women, without regard to race and colour, are welcome to join in the acquisition and advancement of knowledge", and it aptly expresses the "open" universities' continuing commitment to non-racism.

In theory, the "open" universities could now throw their doors wide open and admit large numbers of black students. But this is not going to happen for three reasons.

First, the admission of large numbers of black students in the short term would almost certainly precipitate the imposition of quotas by the minister. Second, it may be doubted whether large numbers of financially able and academically qualified black students exist. No student grant system exists in South Africa and students are largely thrown onto their own resources in financing university study.

This position is changing as commerce and industry make more and more bursaries and scholarships available; and there are a number of ambitious schemes run by the universities themselves. The UCT, for example, using funds provided by an anonymous American donor, makes 80 Sir Karl Popper bursaries available each year. These cover all fees and expenses and are awarded on the basis of need and ability. But the fees at the "open" universities are high; sometimes double those at the "black" universities set up after 1959 to provide university education for blacks.

Finance apart, the system of primary and secondary education for blacks (and Africans in particular) may be charitably described as appalling; and only small numbers of Africans do sufficiently well in the school-leaving examination to be awarded the matriculation exemption necessary for them to be eligible for admission to a university. In 1982 only 4,714 Africans obtained matriculation exemption out of a school population (primary and secondary) of more than three and a half million. There is, however, ample scope for growth in the number of coloured (mixed race) and Indian students.

Third, such growth is not desired by the "open" universities themselves. For many years South African universities have (race apart) adopted selective admission policies: save in



The University of Cape Town against the backdrop of Table Mountain

particularly competitive fields (for example, medicine) any students who completed their schooling with matriculation exemption were admitted irrespective of how well they did in the matriculation examination.

Universities have found it financially advantageous to admit large numbers of students even if they had very poor matriculation results. Many of these students were unable to cope with university study; and there were failure rates of 50 per cent or more in some subjects at the end of the first year of study.

Both the UCT and Wits had been concerned about this state of affairs. And both universities took decisions, prior to the controversy over the Universities Amendment Act, to adopt selective admission policies, by laying down certain minimum standards for each faculty which had to be reached by prospective students in the matriculation examination.

While the UCT envisages growth from its present 11,000 students to some 13,000 at the turn of the century, Wits is thinking of far more substantial growth (from its present 16,000 to 24,000 at the turn of the century), in order to accommodate this increase which will take place in accordance with a carefully formulated academic plan - Wits has acquired a large parcel of land adjacent to its present campus and plans substantial development there. Even so, Wits expects the demand for places to outstrip the supply and hence the need to adopt a selective admission policy.

The universities' commitment to these policies has been buttressed by a

change of government policy in regard to subsidy. Instead of subsidy being based upon the number of students, it will now be based on a complicated calculation of the productivity of the university. In essence this means that the subsidy will depend upon the number of learned publications by staff members and the pass rate at the university in question.

Although the selective admission policies were decided upon well before the announcement in 1983 of the change in the subsidy formula, the "open" universities now have no financial incentive to open their doors wider to poorly qualified blacks. The "open" universities have accepted this change in the subsidy formula without protest and it is not difficult to see why. Although research and few publications by UK standards, they are markedly more productive than most other universities in South Africa and therefore stand to do very well out of the change.

For all these reasons it seems clear that there is not going to be rapid growth in the number of black students at the "open" universities. Indeed, given the indisputable fact that black matriculants emerging from a deprived educational background almost invariably have very poor examination results, the adoption of selective entry means that it will be more difficult for most black matriculants to gain admission to the "open" universities.

This has led to considerable criticism of the universities' policies by those South African academics who would like to see the adoption of some form of "childminders". A system of childminders has developed in black townships because black mothers need to go out to work in order to supplement meagre family incomes. One of the most significant indicators of a developing South African nationalism, in the broadest sense, and cultural melting has been a relatively new pride in indigenous art and literature. Deference to European-based culture is increasingly being replaced by an African self-assertion, both black and white.

Among the 53 papers at the workshop were three locating South African literature within its social context, and implicitly rejecting the notion of the writer as an orbiter at the end of a long, thin umbilical.

Prominent in this approach is the literary historian Tim Couzens of the African Studies Institute, who has been responsible for the "rediscovery" and publication of much indigenous writing which has lain ignored or scorned for decades.

The new trend has been called the "homecoming of South African history" by Professor van Onselen. Its focus is the common people, not the Klitchers, Bothas and Verwoerds to whose individual ambitions and actions the history of the subcontinent has so long been attributed.

At Soweto childminder Johanna Masilela told Cock and Emdon: "So I've left my history somehow. I'm happy that I've got someone who will introduce me. Let me make history please."

of "affirmative action" taken to help black students. These critics make point that all the evidence suggests matriculation performance is a poor guide to subsequent performance at university.

Moreover, research from the sociology department suggests that blacks with poor matriculation results do better at university than whites with poor results. This result is not surprising. A black matriculant is likely to have displayed considerable determination and ability to reach the matriculation standard, but the poor matriculant is probably simply shy or lazy.

Thus far, however, the "open" universities have eschewed "affirmative action". The desire to use non-racial criteria for admission is deeply ingrained; and favouring a racial group, either white or black, would be contrary to what the universities have fought for over 25 years.

The universities are, however, eager to help students from a deprived educational background once they have gained admission; and academic support programmes at both universities provide extra tuition, especially in English and mathematics, to poorly qualified students.

The different policies in regard to growth adopted at the two universities is likely to cause them to diverge: other respects from each other. Demand for student places keeps admission to the UCT well below more difficult than admission to Wits. The UCT, in fact, would welcome the emergence of the Oxfbridge or Harrow of South Africa if more selective admission policies led to a growth in reputation for excellence.

Numbers of black students at the UCT will grow slowly and steadily: it is likely to exceed 30 per cent before the turn of the century. In demographic terms these black students will be predominantly coloured (of mixed race).

At Wits, growth in the number of black students is likely to be much faster. Some estimates anticipate that even with the more selective admission policies, unless the government intervenes, 50 per cent of the student body is likely to be black by 2000. Against demographic reasons the black students at Wits will be largely African.

The government is likely to become increasingly upon the substantial minority coloured students at the UCT, especially since considerable plans are to draw the coloured community into alliance with the whites against the African (then a majority of Africans at Wits).

Neither university has considered fully whether favouring black students in admission policies because of their past experience of discrimination is compatible with non-racial entry and their policies of selective entry.

Although the adoption of the selective admission policies and the change in the subsidy formula signals defeat for the time being of the proponents of "affirmative action", the issue can only grow in importance.

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Howard Barrell



Blacksmiths' shops (left) served as village meeting places. Plucking geese (right) was a laborious task.

## Shattering the rural idyll

When historians examine the nature of change within a society during any period they are often tempted into making general assertions or into drawing broad conclusions which are not justified by a closer analysis of the evidence. This is particularly true where efforts are being made to advance a particular unifying thesis about the process of change, for real life rarely fits into a neat theoretical framework.

If the years between 1870 and the end of the First World War were marked by the most dramatic acceleration of the rate of social change in the English countryside, there were also wide divergences of experience, not merely between the arable and pastoral districts, and between highland and lowland regions, but also within those areas and even within individual parishes. Access to capital and variations in farming ability, to say nothing of differences in the size of holding or the nature of the soil itself could call forth very different responses in terms of cultivation methods applied or produce raised even within a relatively limited geographical area.

Of equal significance were the disparities in the way of life of the large landowner and the substantial tenant farmer, compared to that of the small cultivator, perhaps in pastoral Wales or Devon, who carefully tilled a few acres with the help of his family and gained little reward beyond a sense of pride in his precarious independence and a tenacious determination to preserve it.

In the dairying area of Lancashire during the difficult mid-1890s it was claimed that such men, their wives and children were working "from early dawn to late at night". The report then significantly added: "at the present time in some districts it is the farmer's sons and daughters who have suffered rather than the land for they are giving their best energies towards its cultivation, receiving no reward in the present, and with but little prospect of any in the future."

Few large farmers would have been prepared to endure such a grueling routine and yet even in the early 1880s smaller properties of 50 acres or less still occupied 14 per cent of the total English acreage.

These differences in life style certainly survived the buffeting of the agricultural depression in the final quarter of the nineteenth century, as cheap food imports, particularly from Australasia and the Americas, undermined the competitive position of the British producer and led to sharp price falls. As is well known, in the late 1870s and early 1880s those general problems were exacerbated by the effects of bad harvests at home which reduced crop yields and added to farming costs.

More ominously, there were also changes in consumption patterns as urban workers began to demand a more varied diet and to reduce their intake of bread. At first it was the grain producers and those selling wool who suffered particularly from the development of foreign competition but by the mid-1890s imports of frozen meat and dairy produce had hit the position of the livestock farmer as well.

Not until the early twentieth century was there a slowing down in the inflow and a modest recovery in prices before

Pamela Horn explodes the myth that nineteenth century English country life was peaceful and carefree

the whole direction of agricultural output was changed yet again by the outbreak of the First World War. Now at last farmers found themselves in a sellers' market, even though the vast body of consumers were losers thereby.

During the last 30 years of the nineteenth century these vagaries of fortune led to an inexorable fall in the number of men employed on the land. Initially, there was a sharp decline even in farmers and graziers, with a more than 10 per cent drop in their numbers between 1871 and 1881, as some preferred to retire or to emigrate and others were forced out of business by bankruptcy.

However, it was among their workers that the really dramatic change occurred. Already in the 1850s and 1860s, men had moved away in search of better-paid employment in the towns or on the railways and other public utilities. But it was during the last decade of the century that the greatest drop occurred, reinforced by the labour demands associated with the Boer War in 1899 and 1900.

During the 1890s alone the number of male agricultural labourers declined by a fifth, while the number of female land workers dropped by a half. In the slightly more relaxed atmosphere of the new century, between 1901 and 1911, some small recovery took place but in no way did that restore the position even of 1891.

Inevitably such a major change in rural employment patterns had its effect upon country life generally. In some of the hardest hit counties, such as Essex and Berkshire, landowners were forced to take farms in hand, despite the expense entailed, since not even reductions in rent were sufficient to retain tenants on their holdings.

In other cases, there were vigorous campaigns to recruit Scottish farmers, or those from the pastoral western counties of England and Wales. Here at least in the earlier phase of the depression economic circumstances were less severe and there was a continuing demand for properties to rent.

The new farmers brought with them new ideas, often introducing into the rural counties a heavier concentration on dairying enterprises or the production of hay and vegetables for the nearby London market. They sharply reduced the old reliance on grain production.

The migrants cut labour bills to the bone, relying instead on their own families as they had been accustomed to do in Scotland, Stock was brought down by train from north of the border, dealers or friends sending a few truck-loads of sheep or cattle "on the shortest notice" as the need arose. Wives and daughters took over the dairying side of the business while sons drove the horses and fed the cattle.

Indeed, in Suffolk it was said in the 1890s that Scottish men and women would "undertake work which no Suffolk woman would dream of doing", such as mucking out byres and

ploughing, "which not even the female labourers would stoop to do". With this resolute commitment to hard work and a determined specialization on readily saleable produce, most of them prospered while neighbours, stuck in the old ways, were driven into bankruptcy.

However, change in the late Victorian and Edwardian countryside was not confined to agriculture. As a consequence of the expansion in mass production techniques and of technological change within manufacturing industry, the prosperity of rural craftspeople and workers in cottage industries was likewise undermined by competition from the industrial districts.

Some adapted successfully to the new circumstances, like the blacksmiths who concentrated on repairing machinery and upon their work as farriers, or, greatly daring, began to undertake motor repair work. In other cases, wheelwrights took on the tasks of ordinary carpenters.

But many were forced to leave the villages. Millers were hit especially hard by the decline in English wheat-growing as well as by the creation of large steam-powered mills at the ports to grind the increasing quantities of imported grain by modern techniques. Nearly all of the country millers who remained at the end of the century survived primarily by turning out meal and feeding stuffs for farm livestock.

The agricultural press, too, began to include advertisements for items like iron sheep hurdles and iron fencing produced by Black Country manufacturers. In the circumstances it is not surprising that the numbers engaged in making wooden fences and hurdles by the old hand methods slumped.

Even the Farnham wheelwright, George Sturt, felt the pressure of competition by the late 1880s. "Now, discontented customers would buy 'steam wheels' from London," he declared. "Lighter wheels than any that could be made in my shop - wheels imported ready-made from America - had to be kept in stock along with the ancient sort of axes and felloes."

Eventually in 1889 Sturt decided to install modern machinery and changed over to the manufacture of trade vans and carts.

But not all craftspeople were as able or willing to make these concessions in order to stay in business. Their lack of experience in keeping accounts and their inadequate methods of costing inevitably added to their difficulties at a time of increasingly bitter competition.

Such craftspeople had been important for the social leadership they provided in many communities. The radicalness of village shoemakers was notorious while the blacksmith's shop often acted as an informal discussion centre as well as a place of work.

With the decline in the number and influence of these key members of village society fears were expressed in the early twentieth century that the rural population would be "composed entirely of farmers and farm labour-



Girls making straw plaits for the hat and bonnet trade.



The Fowler brothers of Brookhall, Norfolk, c.1907.

ers" and that "the affairs of the village [would] be governed entirely according to the farmers' interests". In some communities, that was largely what happened, at least before 1914.

Although by 1851 a majority of English men and women had already ceased to dwell in rural districts, it was between 1870 and 1918 that the traditional political predominance of the landed classes was finally swept aside by the burgeoning industrial and commercial interest groups.

It was then that the subordinate position of the countryside in the nation's affairs became painfully apparent. Even where increases in population did occur in rural parishes on the fringes of the larger towns during the early 1900s, they tended to be the result of an influx of newcomers, who worked outside the village and brought with them their own interests and mode of living.

In such circumstances the "natives" began to feel themselves interlopers in their own community. This growth of suburbs and the changes it brought in its train were to continue and intensify after 1918.

Nowadays there is a tendency to

look back with nostalgia to Victorian and Edwardian village life, to an existence which seems more secure and peaceful than the world we know today. But closer investigation reveals the underlying tensions and anxieties which existed in countless country communities as a consequence of agricultural recession and the disruption of many traditional aspects of day-to-day existence.

As early as 1856 George Eliot had warned against the tendency to romanticize rural life and had written scornfully of painters who depicted "idyllic ploughmen" driving their teams merrily to the fields and "idyllic shepherds" making "bashful love under hawthorn bushes". As she wrote observed, "selfish instincts are not subdued by the sight of buttercups: to make men moral something more is requisite than to turn them out to grass."

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# Points for the body to keep in mind

With the NAB's 1984/85 planning exercise complete William Birch

(right) outlines some of the opportunities open for it to take in a longer-term strategy



The National Advisory Body has completed its planning for 1984/85 and will now be turning its attention to the outcomes of the consultative exercise on "A strategy for the 1980s". It is, therefore, a convenient stage, for one who, before resigning, argued in the board for the development of an agreed strategic framework as a prerequisite to effective planning for 1984/85, to comment on some of the more important opportunities which appear to be open to the NAB. My discussion is at four levels: higher education as a whole; the local authority sector; the institutions; fields of study and research.

At the first level the essential opportunity is to provide the local authority sector with much needed leadership based on a well-informed appreciation and articulation of its strengths and an overall concept of a strategic planning body for higher education which would bring the local authority sector fully into consort with the university and the direct-grant sectors.

Among the strengths which require emphasis, four are of particular importance. First, the experience and the success of major institutions in preparing students for a variety of fields of professional and business life through courses of study allied with applied research and consultancy.

Second, the ability in such courses to prepare students to deal not only with the intellectual and practical problems which they will face in their professional lives but also, by stressing the general problem-solving issues involved, to develop their general and flexible qualities of mind. In this respect, the impact made through the NAB that vocationalized oriented courses are necessarily intellectual and de-sacs have been ill-informed and unfortunate.

Third, the high degree of connectivity on a regional basis of institutions of higher education with those in further education, so providing opportunities for the more able students to progress through the system; and fourth, the high degree of interaction, on both a regional and national basis, with industry, commerce and the professions through short-course provision, applied research and consultancy, based on the recognition and standing achieved in the competitive national market for higher education.

An overall strategic planning body for higher education would relate more effectively the strengths of the various sectors. It would need to draw its membership not only from the University Grants Committee, the NAB and the Department of Education and Science but also from the appointment by the Secretary of State in their own right of a significant number of distinguished nonmembers from industry, commerce and the professions. Such a body would be competent to advise on the objectives of the system in meeting both the longer-term needs of scholarship and research and the shorter-term manpower needs of the country. It would likewise be able to advise on the total level of finance required for higher education and on the broad allocation between sectors of both funds and student places.

At the second level the local authority sector presents formidable planning problems comprising, as it does, from the larger polytechnics with more than 10,000 full-time, part-time and short-course students to small local colleges with fewer than 100 students in higher education. The sector presents the additional problem of strong vested interests in maintaining this dispersion of effort and resources. Such interests are bound to run counter to effective planning in a period of retrenchment when the assurance of quality and innovation in the sector point to the need for a substantial measure of rationalization and concentration of effort.

If, therefore, the NAB is to show itself capable of rational planning with reference to national and regional needs in higher education rather than doing little more than achieving an unsatisfactory compromise between vested interests, it will need to grasp a number of opportunities at the sector level of which three are of special importance.

First the structure, terms of reference and membership of the NAB and

its component board and committees, will need to reflect more closely the nature of the system which it is controlling. In particular it will need to provide for membership in their own right, at both board and committee levels, of distinguished figures with an acknowledged concern for higher education drawn from fields of employment in industry, commerce and the professions.

Second the quality of the procedures by which information is sought, analysed and decisions arrived at must be improved and made demonstrably so in the papers, deliberations and minutes of the NAB. In the exercise just concluded, the overwhelming impression was that information was sought before fully determining how it might be used and that information given to the NAB was used out of context and at times to rationalize recommendations made on inadequate grounds.

The seriousness of the problem is exemplified by the extraordinary way in which the 10 per cent retrenchment proposals sought from institutions for 1984/85 were in fact subsequently used as "bids" for student places and funds. At a more detailed level, the confusion and in-fighting evident in dealing with town and country planning must not be repeated. Likewise, it is hoped that institutions will in future not be placed in the anomalous and anomalous position of one polytechnic which was instructed to cease to recruit to two degree courses in technology and science, notwithstanding the CNA's attestation of their quality in accord with the stated planning priorities of both the Secretary of State and the polytechnic.

Third a strategic planning framework must be developed which has agreed objectives which are demonstrably in keeping with the needs of scholarship and research on the one hand and the practical needs of the country on the other. Within such a statement of objectives it will be necessary to examine carefully and to define the most appropriate set of institutional roles and so to bring a necessary degree of system to the present confusion within the sector, without introducing a false rigidity. Three essential roles require consideration.

(i) Major institutions with interlocking national and regional roles based on a broad and mutually supportive range of departments require separate recognition. Such institutions are capable of providing a rich and varied educational context for the student and of responding to the industrial, commercial, professional and community needs of the region at all levels of higher education. These institutions are mainly but not solely the polytechnics.

(ii) The reality of the situation rather than any clear educational objective suggests that a continuing role will need to be found for some of the small and specialized institutions which have established a significant national reputation. However, in the interest of ongoing role and in order to provide their staff and students with the stimulus of contact with a wider range of activities, they should be expected to develop close working links with an adjacent major institution.

(iii) The local authority system has traditionally discharged an important local role in higher education (as well as further education) analogous to that of the community colleges in parts of the United States and Canada and to the regional colleges in Norway. This role, evidence requires rethinking, given the likelihood of an increasing demand for courses from those, including the unemployed and early retired, who may be expected to seek both leisure and vocational education.

It would appear appropriate on grounds of both need and economy to limit the level of such provision to sub-degree and particularly part-time courses with arrangements for the more ambitious students to progress to advanced courses in the major institutions. The latter institutions (and notably the polytechnics) do, of course, already meet this local and community need in the larger urban areas. However, it would be appropriate to secure a greater density of such provision by rethinking or extending the role of those colleges of further education which are suitably located. In so doing, such colleges (as an alternative to closures) of the adjacent, diversified fields of education which would be unable to sustain an ongoing role of the present type in a period of retrenchment and changing demography.

It is significant that the NAB, in arriving at a late stage and under substantial pressure, at a method of allocating the pool for 1984/85 which took some account of the important relationship between resource requirements and scale and level of activity, found it necessary to identify three groups of institutions. Such distinctions should be thought through on a rational basis related to definitions of role and to the number of institutions within each group which can be sustained on an ongoing basis without detriment to the maintenance of appropriate standards.

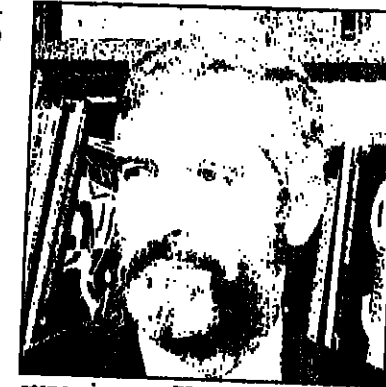
At the third level of the individual institution the NAB will need to think through and establish with the local authority associations the conditions for an effective policy for research and consultancy, an unambiguous statement of the general as well as the particular intellectual merits of vocationally oriented degree courses; and a reasoned basis for redistributing resources from over-provided to under-provided fields of study.

An effective research policy will need to recognize the substantial importance of the close links in the public sector between much research and "company" consultancy. Direct industrial and professional experience for staff is as important as research in emphasis. Its importance, for example, to engineering was well argued in the Finniston report; and the significance of the consistent teacher in medicine is well established. A research policy will also need to provide for an extension to the public sector of the dual support system, coupled with an increase in selectivity in research excellence in research is sufficiently rare and important to be nurtured appropriately wherever it develops.

It is clearly open to the NAB (as it has been in the past) to affirm, in step with the general advice of the Secretary of State, that its sector of higher education has a highly significant role in preparing students directly for professional employment in the private and public sectors of the economy. In professional courses (for the law, the medical and the Church) which represent the oldest tradition in higher education, to meet the needs of an increasingly complex society and technology.

The preparation of students directly for professional life demands the effective integration of theory and practice in solving problems of the real world. It is thus fully capable of developing the general as well as the particular qualities of the student's mind including socio-economic implications of these problems.

The establishment of a reasoned basis for redistributing resources from over-provided to under-provided fields of study will need to flow from



responsive way. The most appropriate solution for all the interests concerned would be for the NAB, local authorities and governing bodies in discussion with the DES, to seek a charter status for major institutions. This would provide such institutions with the opportunity to excel to the fullest possible extent both academically and operationally in effective cooperation with industry, commerce, the professions and their local universities. It would also provide more appropriate recognition of the standing of higher education provided in these major institutions and in the sense that chartered institutions would by convention be entitled to award their own degrees, they would cease to be handicapped in this respect in attracting able students who wish to pursue the type of courses which they offer.

The granting of charters to major institutions in the local authority sector would rebound greatly to the credit of their local authorities. The provisions of charters could appropriately reaffirm the role of these institutions. Charters could also define the composition of the institutions' governing bodies and their responsibilities in discharging their role of public accountability. The question of external validation for courses could also be dealt with in the provisions of the charter, should it be felt that this matter could not be left to the good sense of the academic boards and governing bodies of the institutions.

At the fourth level, of fields of study and research, strategic planning framework which identifies an appropriate set of institutional roles will also provide the opportunity to set out an effective policy for research and consultancy, an unambiguous statement of the general as well as the particular intellectual merits of vocationally oriented degree courses; and a reasoned basis for redistributing resources from over-provided to under-provided fields of study.

In discussing a range of important opportunities which are open to the NAB, I have referred to the strongly vested interests with which it will have to deal. In realizing those opportunities it will, therefore, be necessary to identify the essential and very real strengths of the public sector and to show how they can be supported most effectively. To achieve this on a well-considered basis will require the formulation and public discussion of a strategic plan for the sector.

This plan will need to address the essentially transitory nature of many of the most important issues of higher education and the necessity, therefore, for an overall strategic planning body; it will need to indicate ways of overhauling the structure, membership and the procedures of the NAB itself in order to make it more appropriate to its task; it will need to identify key roles and groups of institutions capable of discharging these roles on an ongoing basis; it will need to secure for major institutions the responsibility and the operational freedom necessary to enable them to excel fully in a highly competitive situation; and it will need to develop a conception of research funding and course planning which is consistent with the fully responsive operation of that sector of higher education which is intended to interact most closely with industry, commerce and the professions.

The task of producing such a plan requires imagination and leadership of a high order and it needs to be based on consultative procedures and information of the highest quality. Given that such a plan can be achieved, it may be expected that the local authority system and its institutions of higher education will be able jointly to move forward to achieve a more central, more effective and more clearly recognized role in the total system of higher education.

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the definition of institutional roles. By so doing, it will be possible to seek a greater measure of concentration on institutions capable of achieving a high degree of cost-effectiveness coupled with quality and capable also of providing students with a varied learning environment. Four fields of study require particular consideration:

(i) The working party of the National Advisory Body on Art and Design pointed to a high level of student demand. However, the opportunity costs of meeting this demand fully and in so doing, maintaining a widely dispersed set of centres, many of which are relatively out of touch with important supporting fields, such as engineering, computer studies and business studies, may have become too high.

(ii) It is generally accepted that the quality of teacher education has suffered from being conducted in relative isolation. A greater concentration on this and would bring the students into contact with fields of study and research related to the industrial, commercial and professional life of their regions. It would also ensure that a higher proportion of future teachers were educated within an urban context and thus in a situation of the type in which they are most likely to teach.

(iii) The past rationalization of teacher education led to the widespread development of "diversified courses" given for the most part by staff trained for other purposes. This policy was established in a period when forecast student demand had been less carefully analysed. In present circumstances both the long-run demand for, and the opportunity costs of providing, such courses appear to require very careful examination.

(iv) The merger of colleges of education with major institutions and the associated redeployment of staff brought about a substantial increase in the size of departments of humanities. Some very high quality degree courses have emerged and are recruiting strongly; they also make possible the provision of important "service" teaching to vocationally orientated courses. However, it will be necessary in the NAB to consider the scale of investment appropriate in the humanities in the demand for resources and for student places in science, technology, professional and business fields.

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## BOOKS

### Imagination and understanding

by Olivia Harris

Ruth Benedict: patterns of a life by Judith Modell  
Chatto & Windus, £15.00  
ISBN 0 7011 2771 6

For most readers the name of Ruth Benedict is probably closely associated with that of Margaret Mead, her youthful student and lifelong friend whose output, achievements and versatility tower over the older woman and give her a sure place in the intellectual history of the twentieth century. Until the publication of this new biography the only substantial accounts of Benedict were those by Mead herself - *An Anthropologist at Work*, published in 1959, and *Ruth Benedict*, published in 1974.

In reality, the achievements of the two women are closely intertwined. As Mead remarks in her own autobiography, in the early years of their friendship for each other was the only person who had read everything the other had written, including not only early drafts of anthropological work but also poetry and personal writings. One of the reasons it is hard to disentangle Benedict from Mead is that while Benedict published a good deal, it is clear that a significant part of her impact was personal, and that her contribution as a teacher is probably as great as that of her writings. Sidney Mintz, himself a distinguished US anthropologist, recounts in a recent article for example that his decision to become an anthropologist on returning from the Second World War rested on a single lecture he heard Ruth Benedict deliver.

Benedict was a close friend and collaborator of Franz Boas, who in ways rather similar to Bronislaw Malinowski in this country made a vital contribution to the development of US anthropology in the first decades of this century, and lived the discipline almost as though it were a military campaign, or a religion. Based with Boas in the tightly-knit department at Columbia University, Benedict was highly influential not only on the students but on the general public as well. If there is something enigmatic about her, it is undoubtedly connected to her particularly presence as a woman. In practical terms, she was only accorded proper professional recognition right at the end of her life, and had to suffer the familiar indignity of seeing a man she profoundly disagreed with appointed as head of the department after Boas retired, since it would have been too risky to appoint a woman.

But apart from the bare facts of her biography, Ruth Benedict's voice is that of a woman in a more important sense. It is surely no accident that the two most successful popularizers of the discipline in the English-speaking world were women. She and Mead combined intellectual brilliance and imagination with a sound sense of the ordinariness of life and were thus able to communicate with the general public in a way that Boas could never do. In doing so they were not simply reproducing in a more accessible form the work of others, but forging their own vision of anthropology and its central role in contemporary life.

In the case of Benedict, the feminine quality of her work can perhaps best be summarized in terms of her profound awareness of the connections between her emotional life and her scholarship. As Modell puts it, in classes she taught not so much ideas as a "frame of mind". Ideas themselves were tied closely to experience, but this for Benedict was not a simple empiricism but required the conscious effort of the writer towards greater self-awareness. Her views are expressed cogently and persuasively in the classic *Patterns of Culture*, published exactly fifty years ago. The book was an instant success, and has remained a standard introduction to anthropology ever since (though not in Britain). She argued that cultures were artistic wholes, and that the diversity of world cultures should be treated with the sort of respect and imaginative engagement that is accorded to works of art. In her vision, each culture is akin to an artist;



Ruth Benedict

selecting qualities and orientations from the infinite variety of possible elements in much the same way as a painter chooses colours from a palette, or a poet selects images and words from the vast storehouse of language. This approach is most successful in her famous contrast between the "Apollonian" and the "Dionysian" cultures of the American south-west. The Pueblo Indians whom she herself had studied strove for aesthetic order through ritual performance, and valued restraint in personal behaviour, while the surrounding Plains cultures were oriented to ecstasy and the transcendental, and valued excess and the extraordinary.

Her arguments, while intuitively attractive and persuasive, seem curiously disembodied and voluntaristic. Her use of the term "selection" for example is a far cry from Darwin, involving not grand unconscious processes but almost conscious choice on the part of the "culture". What is more, cultures were assessed as aesthetic products, and some were found wanting in her demanding aesthetic canon. Of the cultures of the interior tribes of British Columbia for example, she writes "nothing is carried far enough to give body to the culture". It would appear then that there were limits to her cultural relativism.

Her plea for the importance of understanding cultures as integrated wholes arises as a reaction to the prevailing atomistic and particularistic methods of the time. Where other anthropologists - including Boas - had collected lists of cultural "traits" she quotes with approval the arguments of Gestalt psychologists to demonstrate that a culture is more than the sum of its parts. It is also important to understand the social and political milieu in which US anthropology developed, and which led to an emphasis on cultural difference that stands in marked contrast to the primary preoccupations of the discipline in European countries.

For Europeans the "savage" was truly other, for all the analogies drawn with the lumpen proletariat, the backward peasant, the child or the mental defective of Europe itself. In the so-called New World the native inhabitants were there, in some areas re-

duced to a pitiful fragment of their former glory, in others still pursuing their own livelihood in relative independence, and in others the memory they had posed to white settlers still fresh in people's mind. Their presence raised issues of national identity quite different from the confrontation of Europeans with colonized peoples. In addition, the heterogeneity and ethnic mixing of American society gave a quite different emphasis to the issue of cultural diversity than did the relative homogeneity and regional identification of ethnic populations in Europe. As a result culture, understood in the broadest possible terms, became a central concept in US anthropology. Eric Wolf has described the discipline of the 1920s and 30s - the time when Benedict was drawn into it and made her mark upon it as grounded in the "faith" in human malleability, seen as nearly infinite; the educational process as an Aladdin's lamp of progress; democratic pluralism as the American way; and an unconcern with power and its nature". By contrast British anthropology as it developed in the middle decades of this century was preoccupied with the social organization of the peoples studied, an issue closely tied to the needs of colonial administration, whether by direct or indirect rule. It is hard to imagine a British anthropologist writing *Patterns of Culture*, or *Mead's Sex and Temperament in Three Primitive Societies*.

Ruth Benedict, like Boas, had a firm and growing commitment to combating racist ideology throughout her life, and saw the educational qualities of the anthropological vision as a means to achieve this end. She held firmly to the belief in the power of the individual imagination to remake reality, and appears to have treated economic and political interests as too obvious to need spelling out. She was above all an educator, concerned to change people's attitudes. This idealism is nowhere more obvious than in her own life. She was acutely aware of the restrictions placed on her as a woman - before she discovered anthropology in her early thirties she decided to write a study of three

"restless and highly enslaved women of past generations". Mary Wollstonecraft, Margaret Fuller and Olive Schreiner. But their different brands of militancy were not for her: her greatest battles appear to have been fought with herself, her greatest enemy her own excessive emotions. Pessimism pervaded her life; she was unable to break out, partly because of the deafness that has afflicted her since measles in babyhood, but in large part also because her ideal was restraint, calm and control. As she noted characteristically in her journal: "My conclusion so far as I see it now is that there is nothing 'new' about the whole thing - that the restlessness and groping are inherent in the nature of women".

It has often been pointed out how significant a contribution women have made to the development of anthropology compared with other related disciplines. Anthropology offers the possibility of making out of the experience of marginality, of being a misfit, an objective study. It privileges the voices that are normally suppressed, and thus provides scope for the particular insights of those who feel themselves to be marginal. In the case of Ruth Benedict the personal and the professional were integrally intertwined, but not in the confessional sense: rather in the ways that she tried to make of her own life an integrated whole, a "pattern" founded in the significant contrasts, the basic themes of her own life experience. There is something in common with the French writer and anthropologist Michel Leiris, although his work is more directly confessional, and mixes systematically literary and pedagogical intent in a way that Benedict does not. The "personal" note in her writing is not at the level of anecdote but in the central place she attributes to the imagination. In order to comprehend fully one must "participate vicariously" in another's experience. She supplemented her own poetic style with frequent citations from native myths and statements, and quotes Dilthey as a source for her own approach. The focus is on interpretation, not on explanation; nothing can substitute for

Benedict's lasting contribution is then perhaps to remind us that we cannot do without the imagination, the poetic intuition, in anthropological work. But whatever her skills as a teacher, such qualities are bound to remain idiosyncratic, and it is not entirely surprising that her style of doing anthropology came to an end with her death in 1948. Her anthropology was her own self embodied, and she drew explicit parallels for example between the Apollonian and Dionysian contrasts in the cultures of the southwest and the two conflicting sides of her own personality. This approach for all its insights and sensitivity in the end has something monstrous about it, and comes dangerously close to an almighty solipsism in which world cultures become a grandiose projection of inner emotional conflict. In spite of her strictures in *Patterns of Culture* against extrapolating from small-scale homogeneous social groups to large class-divided societies, she herself ended up doing precisely that, especially during the Second World War when along with other anthropologists she worked in Washington on studies of "national character" and wrote her famous "ethnography at a distance" on Japanese culture - *The Chrysanthemum and the Sword*.

Modell's well-written biography addresses itself particularly to this aspect of Benedict: the achievement of "pattern" in her life and the linking of her personal emotional life to her anthropology. She takes as her method Benedict's own views on the relationship between life and writing, and thus presents her life in terms of her own perceptions of it. She tells us as she does about what it felt like to be Ruth Benedict; the book is a good example of a particular genre of biographical writing, but the problem is that Benedict felt trapped and unfulfilled much of the time, with the result that the book itself feels trapped. Trapped in a vision that we have now moved beyond; trapped in a female world of self-punishment that feminism has offered an escape from, or at least argues its possibility. In its faithfulness to its subject, Modell's biography offers us no way out. In one respect she may even have been misled by Benedict's autobiographical writings. She suggests that in the comparison of Apollonian and Dionysian cultures, Benedict's sympathy was with the Dionysian, the ecstatic and emotional. However the picture she herself presents of the woman and which is confirmed in other portraits is typified by phrases such as "calm strength", responsibility, passionate humanitarianism. She is described as formal and composed, aloof and cold, self-contained, careful. The inner conflicts were not acted out in her life, or rather were only allowed expression in an ordered aesthetic form. This picture is the essence of the Apollonian spirit as Benedict herself describes it. Nietzsche surely never suggested that the Apollonian lacked emotion, but rather that this style emphasized its channelling and control.

As a portrait of a woman, then, this new biography is eloquent and perceptive: in the end however it hardly endears one to the anthropologist of whom many spoke in terms of awe and adulation. To explore Benedict's contribution, both as woman and as anthropologist, we need more distance and detachment than Modell has been prepared to give.

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## BOOKS

### Removing layers of mystery

A. E. Housman: a critical biography by Norman Page  
Macmillan, £17.50  
ISBN 0 333 34380 8

Housman has sometimes been likened to Swift and to T. E. Lawrence, as men pre-eminently gifted who show themselves contemptuous of the admiration of others, yet eager for fame upon their own terms, and strangely indifferent to the gift of life itself. A quotation concerning Swift seems especially apt: "A man of rigorous temper with that vigilance of minute attention which his works discover. Not a man to be loved or envied. He seems to have wasted life by rage of neglected pride and the languishment of unsatisfied desire. Unlike Swift, but like Lawrence, Housman's life-style generated a mythology, which both men at once ridiculed and encouraged."

Biographers have thus had to start by removing layers of mystery before serious portraiture could begin. When Housman died there were three especially mystifying areas in the record. He had said that he did not begin to write poetry in earnest until the really emotional part of his life was over. First, then, what were the experiences which had shaped the deeply pessimistic and stoical view of life expressed in *A Shropshire Lad* (1895)? Why, given the steady popularity and the technical assurance of that first slim volume, did he publish no more verse until he was sixty-three? Third, why did the greatest Latin scholar of the age devote thirty years to editing the text of Manilius, the author of a verified treatise on astronomy and astrology of negligible poetic or scientific value, thereby sacrificing work of great literary, arguably the greatest of Roman lyric poets, for whose writings he cared far more?

Housman's early twenties were blighted first by failing his finals at Oxford, then by the collapse of his father's health and practical capacities, which made Alfred, as eldest son, the responsible head of a large family. But the factor which dominated his entire adult emotional life was his unrequited love for his Oxford fellow-student, Moses Jackson. Housman's crucial inner drama of the 1880s, Professor Page concludes, centred upon "an unrewarding quest for a permanent and satisfying relationship." He also

calls attention to the Labouchère amendment to the Criminal Law Amendment Act (1885), which made all homosexual acts between males illegal; thereafter the relationship which Housman cherished above all others became potentially criminal. At that date, the author notes, Housman suddenly left the London lodgings he had shared with the Jackson brothers. Hence the self-sufficiency which he wore throughout his life.

These factors also conditioned his poetic output. His major ambitions and his livelihood lay in scholarship. Poetry offered an outlet for expressing the inexpressible, but the poetic process, Housman admitted, was agonizingly disturbing; it could be practised only as an accomplishment, not as a vocation. Thus the verses written at sixty or later display the same qualities, wonderfully unimpaired but also undeveloped, as those of his youth. His second creative period, which culminated in *Last Poems* (1922), was precipitated by the terminal illness of Moses Jackson.

Although much of the essential material had been unearthed in recent years, Professor Page can fairly claim that none of his predecessors has managed to write a satisfactory biography. His own is especially valuable for its assessment of Housman's scholarship and of the academic climate of his life-time: for, in effect, even during his years in the wilderness spent at the Patent Office, Housman always lived in 1877 to his death in 1936, the chapters on Jowett's Oxford, *fin-de-siècle* University College London, and Georgian Cambridge (1911-1936) set Housman's achievements and ideals for the first time in a complete perspective. This approach helps to explain not only his Oxford debacle, but also his isolation from new developments both in classical and in English studies in Cambridge between the wars.

Concerning his choice of Manilius, we have to remember both his dedication to accuracy and the special nature of his editorial gifts. The ideal material for a textual virtuoso may be - to put it bluntly - a text nobody wants to read; but once the textual critic embarks upon literary judgments, there is the awful warning of Bentley's edition of *Paradise Lost*. Manilius's texts had engaged the intellects of the greatest of Latinists, Scalliger and Minckley, and Housman was determined to complete the task in his lifetime. He saw here "a better chance of approaching finality" than with Propertius - even before he was thirty

that point one may also want to check back to the discarded idea of "character." Why did Chaucer decide to tell the *Frank's Tale*? Was his fascination not with the character of the *Frank's* butt, the sumner; that agent of the church who hears Latin all day in court, but retains only verbal fragments of it, devoid of meaning - and who responds with exactly the same incomprehension (so the *Frank* implies) to words of faith, like "God" or "conscience," or "fend" or "helle"? This would explain the choice of the tale, and the relation to the General Prologue. It would remain true that Chaucer had matched *Frank's Tale* to *Wife of Bath's* with a view to idealism; very likely, further, that he had seized the chance of opposing two stories with similar language, the *superstite* creature, *conscience* (or *superstite* presuppositions, the *superstite* question one is left with, though, is which was more important to him, *superstite* (and, *superstite*), or *superstite* (and, *superstite*). As the connections this book uncovers (though of deliberate plan, or of inspired opportunism, the kind of authors feel coming upon them once a complex work has started to gain momentum).

The latter remains a possibility; and keeping it in mind helps one to retain both that sense for the individual tale which Mrs Cooper's *Gonzaga* images tend to blur, and for the tale-connections which Chaucer never made, but perhaps would have liked to. There is

he feared that his work on the latter might be forestalled by others.

Professor Page is certainly more judicious in his handling of biographical evidence than some of his predecessors. On this score he repeatedly criticizes Richard Graves, whose study is by comparison, uncritical and too often dominated by anecdote. Yet Graves has certainly added to our knowledge of Housman, and Page himself omits to mention B. J. Leggett's excellent *The Poetic Art of A. E. Housman*.

A final chapter surveys the poetry and comments acutely upon individual lyrics, but is more interesting for its view of Housman's place in literary history and its account of *The Name and Nature of Poetry* lecture. This is rightly discussed not only as critical theory but also in relation to Housman's convictions concerning scholarship. It was inevitably received as an assault upon contemporary Cambridge literary criticism, a last stand in defence of the romantic conception of poetry, yet it was in fact written with great reluctance, and is far from developing a complete critical case; it is in part an oration, composed with wit, rhetoric and provocative emphasis, in part a poet's testimony on the experience of composition. Housman always held that literary criticism was the rarest of gifts, that he did not possess it, and that as generally practised it had no more authority than personal taste. This was not false modesty, but rather reflects his passion for certainty and exactitude in suppressing a literary paper of his own, he had once said, "I do not say it is not good: I say it is not good enough for me."

Housman's poetry came to be associated - wrongly - with that of the Georgians, as the elegist of a vanishing England, and his reputation eclipsed by the advent of the modern movement. Because he employed a traditional diction and a narrow range of regular metres, his verse was assumed to lack either the depth or the complexity to repay close study. But taste switched from the transparent anthology pieces to such enigmatic lyrics as "When the bells jangle in the tower", in which the surface emotions clash beneath a powerful meaning. Recent critics - Bateson, Empson and Ricks - have discovered a linguistic energy and a sharpness of focus which are worlds away from the fluency of so much late Victorian and pre-1914 verse, and such a change in reading habits must be to Housman's advantage.

"He very much lived in watertight compartments that were not to communicate with each other," wrote Housman's sister. The present biography bears out that view and throws most light on the academic compartment.

Ian Scott-Kilvert

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## Heroic examples

Yeats's Heroic Examples: Wilde, Parnell, Swift, Casement  
by Michael Steinmann  
Macmillan, £20.00  
ISBN 0 333 43382 4

Michael Steinmann's book seems at first sight rather restricted in choosing only four figures from Yeats's life-long affair with heroism and the heroic type.

His admiration of Cuchulainn is a special "literary" case, but speaking of John O'Leary, with his "magnificent head" and his integrity, Yeats states that "it was through the old Parnell leader... I found my theme". Robert Gregory is celebrated in two great poems as the completely realized hero, Burke, Berkeley, "that inquiring man" John Synge, Maud Gonne and others, press forward for inclusion in Yeats's heroic pantheon. However, it is Steinmann's thesis, on the whole sustained, that Wilde, Parnell, Swift and Casement "were essential" because they resembled Yeats's heroic conception of himself.

The weakest part of the book is on Roger Casement. He was not really of interest to Yeats until the 1926 publication of Maloney's *The Forged Casement Diaries*. The blackening of his name became useful corroborating for Yeats's belief that "politics as the game played today are so much foul play". More importantly, the case may have triggered that wild rage in Yeats which - along with lust - he felt he needed to spur him into song as he grew older. There is no evidence that Yeats was interested in Casement's personality, and as if realizing that Casement does not exemplify his theme very well, Steinmann nervously calls his short Casement chapter an "appendix".

Wilde was important to Yeats, and Steinmann rightly insists that Yeats was more interested in the man - or the mask - than in Wilde's writings, with the exception of *The Picture of Dorian Gray* and *Innocence*. Yeats saw in the brilliant dandy conversationalist an enviable poise which contrasted with his own early feelings of Irish inferiority; he linked him, as early as 1891, with "all the reckless braggadocio of the eighteenth century in Ireland", that century which was to figure so largely in his later imagination; and above all, it was Wilde's life, as much as his aphoristic theorizing, which influenced crucially Yeats's doctrine of the Mask. As A. E. said in a 1916 letter: "W.B.Y. began twenty years ago vigorously denouncing Wilde against the charge of being a poet. He said it was merely living artistically, and it was the duty of everybody to have a conception of themselves, and he intended to conceive of himself. The present W.B.Y. is the result". Steinmann writes perceptively and illuminatingly of all this.

The chapter on Parnell trudges over some well-ploughed ground, though surprisingly there is no reference to Herbert Howarth's *Literature under Parnell's Star* (1958). The portrait of the Protestant aristocrat "attacked by the mob, the Church and the state" is a familiar one, and the reasons for Yeats's attachment to (or creation of) that portrait have been copiously documented. Steinmann's painstaking chronological method does, however, enable us to understand clearly how Yeats moved from seeing the historical Parnell as a force that had subverted Ireland in sterile political rancour to the vision of Parnell as heroic martyr. Swift played a major role, especially from 1910 onwards, reinforcing Yeats's anti-conformist stance. Steinmann focuses at rather too much length on the *Words upon the Window-pane*; but what is fresh and interesting is his account of how Swift's poetry was one of the influences on Yeats's "later manner". Swift offered Yeats a rhetoric which contributed to the "concrete, directness and boldness" of the public poetry which lashes fool and knave.

This is a modest but useful book. It bears too much the marks of its origin as a dissertation, and would have profited from taking a wider perspective; but it is good to be reminded again of Yeats's central engagement with personality.

George J. Watson

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## BOOKS

### A gloomy outlook

The Conditions for Economic Recovery by John Cornwall  
Martin Robertson, £19.50 and £9.95  
ISBN 0 85520 315 3 and 350 1

This book appears to be borne of the author's frustration with recent developments in economics and economics. One can sympathize with regarding frustration as an inadequate basis for a book which purports to be, and is written as, something more than a polemic.

As it is, this is a depressing book - though it offers one a choice of sources of depression. The first option is to take the argument at face value and to be depressed, as is the author himself, by his "formidable" list of necessary requirements for recovery (apparently not even collectively sufficient): a permanent incomes policy; more government intervention and industrial

policy; strong conciliatory political leadership (everywhere?) based on trust and cooperation; the restoration of norms of honesty and fairness in private commercial behaviour; internationally coordinated expansionary policies accompanied by commodity price stabilization programmes and adequate long-term lending to oil importing (developing?) countries from a reformed (liberalized?) international Monetary Fund.

At another level the book is depressing for what it reveals, and displays, about the state of economics. One does not have to be a Dr Pangloss to be sceptical of Cornwall's pessimism either about his colleagues or the world; one can find grounds for scepticism in the analysis underlying his attack on neoclassical economics.

He starts by criticizing the assumption of flexible (endogenous) prices and given (exogenous) tastes and technology. These assumptions are, of course, questionable; but Cornwall's attempt to rationalize their reversal, in a rather Galbraithian manner, is unconvincing. He relies on a mere (if plausible) assertion that the pace of technical change in the industrial revolution "was closely related to economic conditions" and seems to regard "households" re-allocating their budgets towards newly available goods with high income elasticities" as con-

verting the postulate that *tastes* are given. Much of Cornwall's argument depends on an alleged "inflationary bias" having emerged in the market capitalist economies of the postwar period. This concept I find problematic - though not original. Clearly the monetary authorities of the various countries might have an "inflationary bias", tending systematically to prefer, perhaps on the advice of economists like Cornwall, to take risks with inflation rather than with unemployment. This, as we know, will lead to accelerating inflation, as it is only inflation to some degree unexpected that will affect aggregate demand and output. What, I think, people who use the term refer to by an emerging inflationary bias is what many neoclassical economists would refer to as an upward drifting natural rate of unemployment. The difference is important in suggesting different causes and policies.

The natural rate might rise because the relevant tastes and attitudes change (a possibility Cornwall must admit), or because technology changes in a way which makes matching people to jobs more difficult, or labour market institutions may have become more rigid, or, as Cornwall recognizes, there may be effects from unemployment insurance benefits. Whatever one's view on the relative importance

of these factors it is unlikely that one would respond to what was perceived as a drifting natural rate by advocating Cornwall's remedies. His criticism of natural rate doctrine is unconvincing; while he is justified in questioning a number of assumptions (market clearing, voluntary unemployment) on which it has been derived (and even more strongly - but less relevantly - the particular information asymmetry underlying the "Lucas supply function") he does nothing to explain how persistent, non-accelerating, inflation would change anything - such as the social forces which are alleged to account for the inflationary bias.

A similar argument suggests that persistent and fully expected productivity growth at an enhanced rate is unlikely to act as a solvent of the social problems alleged to generate inflation and unemployment. This proposition in no way detracts from the argument, not very clearly articulated here, that deflationary policies, or adverse changes in the terms of trade, by frustrating real wage expectations, may contribute to temporary increases in both inflation and, particularly, unemployment. There is no reason to believe that there exists a *sustainable* rate of productivity growth which is "enough" to attenuate distributional issues. On the other hand there is reason to believe that intervention in

pursuit of such a goal will contribute to the politicization and intensification of the very conflicts its achievement is designed to diminish.

It is depressing that a book which more than once emphasizes the importance of understanding "the true nature of unemployment and inflation" should be so lacking in rigour in the presentation of alternatives to the neo-classical model. The weaknesses of naive supply side economics, and the unreality of some assumptions invoked by some neoclassical economists, are easy targets. It is hard to deny a role for demand or involuntary unemployment. But a bunch of propositions generated in this way do not constitute an alternative theory - let alone the basis for a perception of the true nature of the economy. No, despite the deployment of considerable quantities of statistics, is a remotely complete quantitative account of the modern industrial economy presented.

This not very radical work might well serve as a conspectus of the process by which "the middle of the road" became the "soft centre".

J. S. Flemming

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Hyperinflation was a problem facing the Communist government in China in 1949. This picture shows a "gold rush" in Shanghai, when people crowded to change paper money into gold and many were trampled to death. It is taken from Caroline Blunden and Mark Elvin's *Cultural Atlas of China* (Phaidon, £17.50).

## Downing tools

Strikes in Postwar Britain: a study of stoppages of work due to industrial disputes 1946-73  
by G. W. Durcan, W. E. J. McCarthy and J. P. Redman  
Allen & Unwin, £20.00  
ISBN 0 04 331093 1

This is a thorough and detailed account and analysis of strikes in Britain during the first 27 years after the war, using data provided by the Department of Employment's records of reported stoppages. The authors recognize many of the deficiencies of that information but argue that it is adequate for their purposes.

In describing the pattern of strikes over the period the authors identify four sub-periods, beginning with 1946 to 1952, which were "years of industrial peace". There was a decline in the number of strikes, and those that did occur tended to be short, unofficial and small-scale. The period was followed by "the return of the strike" during the years 1953 to 1959, when the national official stoppage reappeared after an absence of 20 years, and when there was an increase in the concentration of strikes in the most strike-prone industries. The third period, 1960 to 1968, saw "the rise of the shop floor movement". There was an increase in the level of strike activity, an absence of long, official national stoppages; and the spread of conflict to sectors outside the traditional strike-prone industries. The final phase, 1969-1973, is styled "the formal challenge". Strike activity rose accord-

ing to all measures. An increase in both small unofficial stoppages and large official ones was supplemented by the emergence of new forms, namely medium-scale strikes and political strikes.

In looking for explanations of strike patterns, the authors attach little importance to macroeconomic influences, and most importance to the institutions for collective bargaining, to the role of government, and their interaction. Case studies of particular industries suggested to them that attention needed to be paid both to the reform of procedures for resolving disputes and attention to the source of disputes. Even then the benefits to be derived from both might be overestimated by external factors. In particular government was important in providing the general climate to industrial relations, in promoting institutions for resolving differences and in providing particular industrial relations initiatives such as incomes policy and legislation on trade unions.

There is no doubt that this is an important and impressive book which will become a standard reference on strikes in Britain. It combines massive statistical analysis with the perspective of W. E. J. McCarthy (now Lord McCarthy) who was at the centre of many of the events or developments described. At the same time the work is flawed, first because by concentrating on strikes it fails to recognize an important development in forms of industrial action in Britain. It considers only strikes and excludes all other forms of industrial action but concludes that "stoppages and other sanctions are interchangeable pressures". However, the recent DE/PSI/SSRC survey of workplace industrial relations found that there was a very marked contrast

in the industrial and occupational distribution of strikes compared with other sanctions. Moreover, strikes were characteristic of sectors and occupational groups in decline while such action as overtime bans and working to rule were characteristic of groups that were growing in relative importance.

Secondly, the analysis largely ignores the results of surveys of workplaces on the distribution of strikes in relation to the characteristics of the workplaces where they occur. Clearly, where a strike is the result of some feature of a workplace then the workplace is the most appropriate level for identifying that feature. Analysis at the level of the industrial sector is a much cruder method of pinpointing influences upon local stoppages.

Thirdly, while the book does not set out to explore the consequences of strikes and, indeed, the authors argue that it is impossible to measure the effects of industrial action, nevertheless they cannot resist making some observations about impact, which tend to minimize the costs of strikes. For instance, they argue that strikes do not play a major role in wage-push inflation on the basis of the following reasoning: the earnings of workers, whose pay is settled by collective bargaining are only slightly higher than those of counterparts whose pay is not negotiated. Strikes occur in relation to only a very small proportion of negotiations, *ergo* the mark up in pay gained from striking is tiny. Such reasoning ignores the dynamic in the pay round and unnecessarily detracts from the authority of the book.

W. W. Daniel

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## Wise after the event

Stagflation, volume two:

Demand Management

by David Vines, Jan Maciejowski and James Meade

Allen & Unwin, £16.00 and £7.50

ISBN 0 04 339030 7 and 339031 5

The best writers about economics

approach their readers with sympathy.

They know their subject is not an easy

one and they are concerned that an

obscure vocabulary or unfamiliar

mathematical techniques should not

distract attention from the importance

of the message they are trying to

convey. In this they contrast with many

journeymen economists who write

James Meade, who won the Nobel

Prize for Economics in 1977, writes

very well indeed.

This is the second of two volumes in

which James Meade and his collabora-

tors set out their design for a method

of operating economic policy which

will cure at the same time the ills of

inflation and unemployment. Here we

are concerned with the management of

aggregate demand, the problems of

fixing wage rates having been consi-

dered at length in the first volume. The

problem is seen, in large part, as one

for the control engineer. The descrip-

tion of control theory is unpretentious

and clear, but necessarily presupposes

familiarity with some quite advanced

mathematics. The performance of the

economy is measured by unemployment,

inflation, the balance of payments

and the level of fixed investment.

The aim is to maintain a satisfactory

performance on all these mea-

sures by making timely adjustments to

wages, taxes, interest rates and the

rate of exchange. This requires the

specification of "feedback" rules, tell-

ing those operating economic policy

how they should move their various

levers in response to danger signals of

different kinds. Viewed this way man-

aging the economy is an intellectually

attractive puzzle, rather like some of

the better games one can buy to play

on a home computer.

Control rules are calculated, with

the help of a simple mathematical

model of the economy, based on that

used for forecasting at the Treasury.

The model is also used to show what

might have happened to the economy

over the period 1972 to 1984 if those

control rules had been in operation. It

is as if we could start again from the

time things went really wrong, know-

ing what we know now. The results of

the rewriting of history may not be

economic bliss, but they certainly look

far more attractive than reality.

Any model-based treatment of pol-

icy-making does, of course, have its

limitations, as the authors would no

doubt recognize. Our knowledge of

the working of the economy is not

precise, indeed there is notorious dis-

agreement among economists about

every aspect of it. We are promised

that further work is to be done to test

how robust the conclusions of this

book are to the use of alternative

models. That further work is certainly

needed.

A more fundamental problem with

any kind of economic engineering

concerns the possibility that the be-

haviour of the economy, which the

model tries to describe, will change

if new policy rules are adopted. The

announcement of targets for £M3

for example certainly changed the

behaviour of financial markets and

possibly the behaviour of businessmen

more generally. Lots of my fellow-

economists will be making this criticism

of the book, because it is the

fashionable point to make about any

study that uses a econometric model to

discuss policy rules. It may be mark

of their self-confidence that the au-

thors have done so little to disurm such

criticism in advance.

I have another worry about the

book, which troubles me more. My

concern is that it will be read on its own

and not as a sequel to volume one.

Nowhere in volume two are we told

how policy should be designed if wage

fixing is not reformed. But James

Meade's ideas have been widely dis-

cussed already and there are some

influential economists who want fiscal

policy designed, even now, in accor-

dance with the principle on which

volume two is based, setting objectives



## BOOKS

## Science policies

Science in Government  
by J. R. H. R. R. R.  
Edward Arnold, £9.95  
ISBN 0 7131 8040 4

As governments reflect on their countries' positions in the international league table of economic performance, one source to which they often turn for help in moving up the table is science. This in turn often stimulates interest in comparative studies of science policy structures and processes, with some hoping to learn lessons from abroad, and at least some others hoping to be reassured that nothing in their own arrangements need to be changed.

Professor Ronayne's book arose from such a study done for the Australian Science and Technology Council (ASTEC), which advises the prime minister on priorities and research activities generally and which asked Professor Ronayne to assist it to develop criteria and techniques for this purpose. This task required him, in the first instance, to review the literature on assessing priorities in scientific research and development, and on the criteria, techniques and institutional mechanisms used to enact science policy in selected countries. The material collected for these reviews forms the basis of this book, a book that is intended for students and staff on courses with a science policy studies component but which is likely also to be of interest to scientists and officials who are involved with the practice of science policy.

Students will find particularly helpful the surveys, in the first three chapters, of the historical development of the idea of science policy, the arguments for and against government intervention in science and technology, the available criteria for identifying priority areas, and the types of mechanisms for enacting science policy that can be distinguished. Among the subjects covered are the origins of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research in Britain, the Bush report, in the United States, on *Science, The Endless Frontier*, and the seminal work of the OECD in enacting science policies. Also useful are reviews of the development of economic arguments about the role of government in the support of science and technology, and of various studies of technological innovation. There is, in addition, a brief discussion of some of the analytical techniques available in the field, although its very brevity might require interested students to move on quickly to the original sources.

The range of these surveys is admirably wide, although regrettably space has not been found for some of the more recent work on, for example, the shortcomings of the peer review system (there is an all-too-brief reference to this), or some of the sociological work which Australian, British, Dutch

and German scholars, among others, have begun to apply with some effect to the question of whether the possibility of directing science to social goals varies with the nature and stage of development of each discipline: the implication of this work for science policy are considerable.

The bulk of the remainder of the book comprises studies of the science policy processes of the United States, Britain, Australia, West Germany, Canada, Japan and Belgium. The choice of countries was dictated by the initial ASTEC brief, but has been turned to advantage by Professor Ronayne to illustrate the operation of four types of science policy organization: the pluralist, the coordinated, the concerted action, and the centralist. Because the point is to illustrate the types, rather than to expound definitively on each of the selected national systems, the detail given in these chapters varies considerably: the one on Belgium, for example, gives no indication of the scale and distribution of funds for science; that on Australia is extremely rich, with many telling details; and that on the United States, while nearly as detailed, would perhaps have demonstrated even better the workings of a pluralist system if more account had been given of the role of Congress. Nevertheless, the typology outlined here offers an instructive approach to comparative science policy studies, and deserves more systematic development.

Philip Gummert

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## Stellar images

The New Astronomy  
by Nigel Henbest and Michael Marten  
Cambridge University Press, £12.50  
ISBN 0 521 25683 6

The publication in 1609 by Johannes Kepler of the first book entitled *The New Astronomy*, in which he presented his discovery of the first law of planetary motion, proved to be one of the key steps in the scientific revolution which culminated in Newton's discovery of the laws of motion and of gravity. Henbest and Marten's book celebrates what has proved to be a revolution in astronomy during the past 30 years.

Before 1945, astronomy meant the study of the heavens with optical telescopes using photographic plates. The new astronomy described and profusely illustrated in this splendid book concerns the expansion of the observable waveband from the mere half decade of the optical waveband to the 18 decades from long radio waves to the limit of hard gamma-rays. Equally significant are the use of electro-optical digital detectors for the optical waveband and the full power of modern data analysis and image processing techniques which contribute not only to the beauty of the illustrations in this book but also, and more important, to the ability of the astronomer to produce much more and better science from a given set of observations.

The essential feature of the book is that it reproduces astronomical images of celestial objects in the new wavebands, in many cases with the same angular resolving power which is routinely obtained with optical telescopes – a feat that would not have been possible a few years ago. In radio astronomy, imaging by the use of the aperture synthesis technique, first developed in Cambridge in the 1960s, was brought to a high pitch of perfection with the construction of the "very large array", a complex system of related sites centred on Arecibo (?) in the United States during the past six years. In X-ray astronomy, the Einstein Satellite Observatory, in orbit from 1978 to 1981, produced the first X-ray images of strong X-ray emitters with resolution comparable to typical optical pictures. Infrared telescopes can now map out celestial objects with the same angular resolution and with very high sensitivity. In contemplating the images of objects in these different

wavebands, my own favourites, each of which could form a lecture course in its own right, are the planet Jupiter, the regions of star formation in the Orion Nebula, the supernova Casiopeia and the Crab Nebula, the all-sky images of our own Galaxy, and the radio galaxies M87 and Cygnus A. The great technological achievements which they represent are described in separate chapters in the book.

To the professional, the book contains a spectacular collection of old friends, all assembled within a single convenient volume. It could certainly be used to great effect as part of the teaching course, particularly as many of the images are often surprisingly difficult to track down, especially in full colour. A wealth of data on many of the most important objects in the sky is also provided. As for the non-professional, I suspect he will have to work quite hard initially to appreciate the potential in each different waveband and the angular resolution of each non-optical image. He might also find it difficult to relate the same object in different images of the same object in different wavebands. Although this is always spelled out in the text, it is not always clear from the pictures or figure captions alone.

The accompanying text is reliable and strikes a nice balance between enthusiasm and sensible interpretation. General readers, however, will have to take on trust the various statements made about such processes as synchrotron radiation, thermal bremsstrahlung, and gamma-ray emission by pion decay. Apart from the text should be intelligible to all enthusiasts from teenagers upwards.

Although it might seem ungracious to find fault with such a beautiful and stimulating book, I do have one reservation. I think that a mass of fascinating detail presented visually and in the text, general readers might lose sight of the overall grand design. Every different waveband tells a separate story which ultimately must be welded into a single picture. Although such a picture is now forming, it does require some appreciation of the nature of the many physical processes at work in the Universe to be wholly convincing. However, the book would certainly form an excellent basis for more technical studies of modern astronomy and astrophysics.

M. S. Longair

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## Syntax checking

A First Course in Formal Language Theory  
by V. J. Rayward-Smith  
Blackwell Scientific, £7.80  
ISBN 0 632 01176 9

Methods of communicating instructions to a computer have been under study for about 30 years, the main motivation for research being that computers can only execute relatively primitive instructions which are made up of groups of binary digits. As form is rare nowadays – it is extremely easy to make mistakes and it is usually not easy to express the solution to the problem in question in terms of the computer's instructions – the medium for communication is more likely to be formal-orientated. Languages, such as Pascal, Fortran or Ada. However, if the programs are to be executed efficiently, the high-level language version must be translated into a binary version so that the computer can execute the instructions. This process is known as compilation and the program which performs this task is known as a compiler.

The task, however, is not solely one of translation, because the syntax and semantics of the high-level language are precisely defined and the instructions submitted in the high-level language must conform to this specification of that language. There are now several well-known methods of recognizing whether a given input has the required syntax, although methods for semantic checks are less well defined. Formal language theory, as defined in

this book, covers the theoretical background of the algorithms which are usually used for syntax checking. As the compilation process is such an important part of program development, computing scientists should have an understanding of some of this theory.

The book commences with a brief review of the mathematical prerequisites and an introduction to grammars. As the basic symbols of a language can usually be described in terms of a "regular grammar", two chapters are then devoted to the development of algorithms for the recognition of such symbols. A description of the complete syntax of a language requires a less restrictive grammar, usually a context-free grammar, and the related theorems and proofs are described next.

The construction of algorithms to decide whether a given input is a syntactically legal program is more difficult. However, although push-down automata, top-down and bottom-up algorithms are covered, one of the most powerful bottom-up techniques, the LR parsing method, is not given full coverage. In particular, the simple LR condition is described but the LALR condition is not.

Rayward-Smith has written his book "primarily for first and second-year undergraduates, in a style which is thorough but also clear and unadorned". However, the joint objectives of rigour and clarity are extremely difficult to achieve with this topic, the one usually being sacrificed for the sake of the other. Although Rayward-Smith has worked hard to achieve a balance, he has not been totally successful, with rigour being the dominant factor.

David Robson

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## BOOKS

AMERICAN STUDIES

## Harsh roses

H.D.: Collected Poems 1912-1944  
edited by Louis Martz  
Corgi, £16.95  
ISBN 0 85635 457 0

The story goes that Pound, having made some characteristic objections (or excisions) in the poem "Hymn of the Ways" wrote underneath it "H.D. Imagist" and sent it off to Harriet Monroe at *Poetry*. This was in 1912 and one might say that thus the brief movement called Imagism began.

It would be pointless to repeat here the maxims or criteria which F. S. Flint drew up for true "imagist" poetry – with the dominant emphasis always on "direct treatment of the thing"; better perhaps to quote from Pound's comments which accompanied H.D.'s poem.

It is in the laconic speech of the Imagists. Objective – no slither – direct – no excess of adjectives etc. No metaphors that won't permit of examination. It's straight talk – straight as the Greek.

This is something which Pound wanted – and wanted for modern poetry – and he found it in some of the early poems of H.D. (with whom he was in love – according to W. C. Williams). Many of us have tended to regard H.D. as mainly an "Imagist" who happened to be in the right place at the right time when so many new things were starting to happen in modern poetry but who then more or less disappeared until her impressive *Trilogy* appeared – 1942-1944. But now that the indispensable Corgi edition has published this first volume (over 600 pages) of her collected poems we can see that she was a very much more considerable – and productive – figure. And the term "imagist" is quite inadequate to cover all her work – though it does indeed often rely heavily on sharp discrete perceptions and images – just as she is hardly a "Greek" poet though her poems teem with references to, and translations from, the Greeks. She had

recourse to both Imagist techniques and classical (and mythical) figures and subjects to both project and control her own very intense feelings and their painful contradictory pressures.

As Louis Martz points out in his introduction, which is lucid and very perceptive as one would expect, many of the poems are strongly autobiographical, however impersonal they may seem to the uninformed reader.

This of course poses some rather large questions. What difference would it make if, for example, we did not know that "The Master" was about Freud, with whom she underwent analysis, or that "The Poet" almost certainly refers to D. H. Lawrence with whom she had an intense – though not carnal – relation? This is not to mention the many poems about – for another example – the joys and griefs of her marriage to the unfaithful Richard Aldington, particularly the powerful poems "Amaranth", "Eros", "Envy". These are all moving and masterly poems in their own right but there is not some increase of meaning and impact when we know the occasion or initiating origin of their composition?

But leaving such large questions

permanent accretions of power. As the transportation and industrial revolutions created a national economy, so the federal government began to exercise new regulatory functions towards the end of the nineteenth century. However, to judge from this volume, it was the collapse of the states' welfare systems during the Great Depression that provoked the major shift in power; and it is the federal welfare state, founded during the New Deal and expanding since the 1960s – rather than the even more dramatic expansion of the federal military establishment since 1950 – that has drawn the main fire of conservatives.

Yet, to these British eyes, centralization has been extraordinarily resisted. Robert Harrison reveals impressively how the federal response to economic change in the late nineteenth century was limited both by the lack of a federal administrative system reaching into the states and by the persisting localism of party politicians – which meant many regulatory functions had to be exercised by the federal courts. Above all, Tony Badger's moving and rewarding essay spells out how the innovations of the New Deal were in part cramped by the need to cooperate with conservative state governments and local interest groups. To use the dichotomy presented by the distinguished American contributor Harold Hyman, modern American federalism seems not so much a two-layered, adversarial system in which central power has overwhelmed state power, as a mutually reinforcing cooperative venture between state and federal governments.

In any case, as Steve Spackman argues for the Reconstruction period, outright national power would be acceptable only if the United States were less heterogeneous or less committed to liberal political values. Those who dislike present federal policies have always resorted to traditional constitutional arguments whenever

they have suited their purposes. Duncan MacLeod shows how the revival of Old Republicanism in the "triple crisis" of 1819-21 linked strict constructionism to fears of Northern antislavery and the threat of industrial capitalism. David Turley demonstrates how the abolitionist view of federal power changed according to whether it promised to achieve their purposes; and John Thompson reveals that Progressive publicists, for all their high expectations of government, could by 1920 become suspicious of governmental action they had never been able to control. Even now conservatives are selective in their criticism of federal-government power, concentrating their wrath on the domestic innovations of the 1960s and accepting instruments of an active foreign policy as liberal in origin and impact as the Peace Corps.

Unfortunately the volume as a whole does not consistently concentrate on these central themes. Some essays are focused primarily on current historiographical interpretations of particular periods, others on specific episodes or the attitudes of individuals and small groups; too many consider federal power only incidentally. This lack of focus arises from the volume's origin as a *Festschrift* for William Brock, and its provenance remains obvious despite Robert Jefferson-Jones's valiant attempt to draw coherent conclusions from very disparate essays. Yet, for all its unevenness, the general scholarly quality and interest of the essays are commendable, and the volume stands as a worthy tribute to the man whose study of the federal government in *An American Crisis* (1963) was the first original British contribution to American historiography.

Donald Ratcliffe

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place of harmony and security: on the contrary it is a focusing. For this beauty, beauty without strength, chokes out life.

She wants the wind to wreck its own kind of havoc there, leaving flowers broken and snapped, trees twisted and torn:

O to blot out this garden to forget, to find a new beauty in some terrible wind-torn place.

She is not one of those poets who "wander about" but "find no honey of flowers in this waste": but

is our task less sweet – who recall the old splendour, await the new beauty of cities? Recalling old splendour ("let us search the old highways... recover old values") and awaiting a new beauty ("the unwritten volume of the new") occupied much of her work. When she writes "I mend a break in time" she is referring to her self-appointed role of the scribe who can and must try to bridge the chasm between the vitalizing powers of past cultures and religions and the possibilities of a new life, a new set of saving values, regenerating new "spiritual realism" – a chasm caused by the ruinous destructive upheavals and disruptions of the historical period she lived through.

So while her poetry can seek ever further back in time for some primeval origin prior to all the different cultures and religions she is at the same time constantly trying to push through into some unmapped unrecorded future: we are voyagers, discoverers of the not-known, and whatever the strains, the lapses the unconvincing repetitions and reiterations (and they are all detectable at time) there was, invariably, "persistence".

In all this she is clearly of the same era – as Pound and Lawrence (two important men in her life), Yeats and Eliot; Freud and Jung and other psychologists and anthropologists. She also has affinities with some more recent poets – for instance Robert Duncan. Yet she is unmistakably H.D. whether in her more obviously Imagist and "Greek" phases, or in her more prophetic and mythic-religious writing. She may speak as for Hermes Trismegistus or from the book of Revelation, or she may be a seemingly detached scrutinizer of some of her own inner tensions, not least between passion and poetry:

so my mind hesitates above the passion quivering yet to break,

the sea (of passion, history, religions, and so on) was indeed all about her and the shell from within which she wrote registered many of their tidal tugs and flows (and a good many storms, and wrecks). Indeed, she would perhaps open herself to them. But continually, regularly – the "jaws snap shut". Each line bites off just what it can decently and carefully deal with. H.D. sensed her own limits. But she had that gift of persistence. And whatever she was writing about (of which a short review can give but inadequate intimation) she kept her faith. Ultimately a faith in language itself – for she knew that the Word is both prior to and – in the long run – stronger than the Sword. Thoth, Hermes, the stylus, the palette, the pen, the quill endure...

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## Key to the cell

Molecular Biology of the Cell  
by Bruce Alberts, Dennis Bray, Julian Lewis, Martin Raff, Keith Roberts and James D. Watson  
Garland, £12.50  
ISBN 0 8240 7283 9

"Long ago it became evident that the key to every biological problem must finally be sought in the cell, for every living organism is, or at some time has been, a cell", so said E. B. Wilson writing in 1925. The subject matter of this excellent undergraduate textbook is very much Wilson, 60 years on: "As the study of embryology, cytology and genetics goes forward, we see more and more clearly that it can only approach its final objectives through a close alliance with biophysics and biochemistry".

When the cell biology course in Cambridge began, almost 20 years ago, lecturers "knew of no one text that covered all the material in a satisfactory way". Wilson's classic *The Cell in Development and Heredity* was out of date, and J. D. Watson's excellent *The Molecular Biology of the Gene* largely ignored eukaryotic topics in favour of a treatment based on the genetics and metabolism of the bacterium. Since then some quite outstanding biochemistry textbooks have been published, and there are several very useful books that suit introductory courses in cell biology. This book, however, is altogether different; it is the book our teachers said didn't exist.

The authors write with authority: they are all actively working in relevant fields, and other experts were called in where necessary. (The list of secondary authors and readers is impressive.) The result is an accurate and up-to-date textbook. More unusually, it is also a pleasure to read and to look at. It gleams with intelligence, sound judgment and a graceful humour. Keith Roberts, who illustrated Watson's original book, has again provided the illustrations. The choice of photographs is superb, although a few of the drawings illustrate points that hardly need it. The references are well-chosen and sufficiently full to allow direct access to the primary literature as well as reviews, and the excellent index and cross-references within the text help the remote sections to be found. The authors rightly point out in their preface that to understand DNA is not to understand the essence of the living state, and the heart of the book presented in chapters five to thirteen makes this brilliantly clear. There is very little classical biochemistry, as such, and relatively little about genes,



Common or white-tufted-ear marmoset from Brazil, painted by Sydney Parkinson in 1758. From Sydney Parkinson: artist of Cook's 'Endeavour' voyage, edited by D. J. Carr and published by the British Museum (Natural History) in association with Croom Helm at £29.95.

but the wealth of fresh material about membranes, the cytoskeleton, cell division and cell physiology is all treated from the conceptual standpoint of molecular biology. The book is at its best in those areas where molecular explanations are available and appropriate, as for example in the chapter on membranes. It is less successful where they are not, as in the section on developmental biology: development that comes close to this ideas clearly and succinctly. To my right, and traditional biochemistry courses had better take note.

The style of presentation, with its tone to some extent concealed, places where we either don't know, or don't properly understand what is going on, but they prefer to emphasize what we actually know rather than say what we best when the experimental evidence forms part of the story, which it doesn't

always do. In the section on cell-mediated immunity, they present the evidence and describe key experiments. By contrast, the section on the resting and action potentials of nerves is poor precisely because it gives too much theory with no idea of how we know; and includes too much trendy material (the poor old squid giant axon is mentioned only in a figure legend). The deliberate omission of any discussion of treatment of bacteria and their chemotaxis (though amusingly, bacterial bold strokes are fully described), is a pity, a companion volume which deals with the subject of the first three chapters (essentially biology) would be most welcome. In the meantime, this book will inevitably serve as the standard text for undergraduate courses in biology.

Tim Hunt

Tim Hunt is lecturer in biochemistry at the University of Cambridge.



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# BOOKS

## AMERICAN STUDIES

### Battle hymns

The Fire of Liberty  
compiled, edited and with an introduction by Esmond Wright  
Hamish Hamilton, £9.95  
ISBN 0 241 11110 2

The campaigns of the American War of Independence are possessed of contrasting, perhaps confusing, aspects: they took place in a vast extent of territory, but were fought by armies that rarely amounted to more than 10,000 men; formal politeness between commanders and the courage of doomed yet resolute victims such as Nathan Hale and John André must be set against merciless Indian fights and almost wholly American encounters at Cherry Valley and King's Mountain, where both the number of killings and the way in which they were carried out offer spectacles stripped of all pretence of honour and formality; the contest was between amateurs and professionals and was resolved by an acceptance of failure rather than by outright victory. Six years of conflict involving, on its way to resolution, the emergence of such unforeseen and unprecedented

### Contending images

The Divided Mind:  
Ideology and Imagination in America, 1898-1917  
by Peter Conn  
Cambridge University Press, £22.50  
ISBN 0 521 25392 6

Cultural historians have often been seduced by the idea of a decisive generation: a group of significant individuals thrust together chronologically whose aspirations and achievements summarize those of the culture as a whole. For American historians the last decade of the nineteenth century and first of the twentieth have had particular appeal. This period, punctuated by an imperialist war apparently confirming the nation's omnipotence (the Spanish-American war of 1898) and closing on the eve of involvement for the first time as an independent force in European conflict, also apparently saw enduring aspects of modern American culture confirmed or created. These include the triumph of corporate capitalism, the utter failure of American social-

### A sense of balance

American Politics and Society  
by David McKay  
Martin Robertson, £20.00 and £6.95  
ISBN 0 85520 636 5 and 660 8

Written as an introduction for non-American readers to the complexities of government in the United States, this book has many merits. After two brief introductory chapters, the nine that follow cover the familiar topics: constitution and courts; executive (presidency and bureaucracy) and legislative (in their constituencies and in Washington); voting behaviour, parties and interest groups. The conclusion examines three crucial areas of policy-making: urban, economic and foreign affairs: to evaluate the performance of the system. McKay is careful to avoid narrow institutional formalism, relating each topic to the social forces at work. And he achieves some freshness by an unconventional arrangement of his material: the historic constitutional background is immediately followed by an excellent chapter on federalism.

elements, provide a topic which, no matter how often reviewed, maintains its fascination and reveals striking examples.

Esmond Wright has not failed to transform familiar episodes into dramatic events. He has allowed the story to be unfolded by those who made it: extracts from the writings, both strictly contemporaneous and later reminiscences, of American and British participants, are linked by a narrative designed not to overshadow personal descriptions and memories. It can only be regretted that while locations are given for the well-known illustrations a like assistance is withheld in the case of the text. Readers familiar with the principal printed sources of the military history of the Revolution will experience no great difficulty in tracking down a fair number of the original works, but few will be able to lay claim to a faultless identification. The professional historian, as much as the general reader, will regret the lack of this information and the necessity to repair ignorance by making inquiries at the Institute of United States Studies.

The battles of the war are sufficiently removed from present concerns to permit their study to be undertaken without the disturbing influence of national attachments. Professor Wright, an historian whose conservative sympathies are matched with his acknowledged authority on an upheaval possessing radical implications, would seem well suited to offer a delicately balanced assessment, and his selection of accounts fully confirms this expectation. Yet impartiality does not preclude judgment and leaves the reader to answer the question: which side left the better case for its cause? In this respect it seems evident that the American narratives prevail.

As amateurs, literary and powers of expression were not, for the Revolutionaries, linked to military rank and class; their accounts of the conflict possess a power and immediacy of description that offer no obvious clue to status. The British version is composed almost entirely by officers, and if Sergeant Lamb provides an exception, his contribution does not compare altogether favourably with those of the American rank and file. The Continental Army attracted recruits who had enlisted to pursue a cause; the British regiments were made up of those who pursued war as a profession. The journey from Bunker Hill to Yorktown was accomplished by the painful creation of an American army

life. However, our attention is directed away from macroeconomics and abstractions of this order to the reading of texts and their role as "reproductions" of the culture. The idea of a hegemonic culture, part created by and part creative of a wide variety of artistic statements is not novel, and independent of these individual readings may even seem banal. Nor is there any real security in Conn's "generation", although he is scrupulous about directing attention to works composed within the period of his title. To take two of his major characters: Henry James was 67 in 1900 and died in 1916; Frank Lloyd Wright was 31 in 1900 and died in 1959. It is not, of course, part of his case that these individuals met, influenced, or cared significantly about each other. He quotes E. L. Doctorow (the author of *Ragtime*) approvingly, who, when quizzed about the fiction meeting Nesbit and the anarchist Emma Goldman, replied "They have now". This is before concluding *The Divided Mind* within a telling analysis of the different mental worlds occupied by James and York's Bowery in 1905. Happily, if the premise and theory are somewhat laboured, the individual studies are fresh and imaginative. Conn has cast his net wide, and some chapters (notably those on James and

(one of his specialities); the discussions of party decline, rightly seen as somewhat ambiguous, and of voter participation precede and lead into an analysis of Congress; the presidency bureaucracy apparatus following on and linked directly to the pressure, abundance of up-to-date information and contemporary literature on each topic is regularly referred to; current controversies are shrewdly discussed, including some such as the debate over regulation - which are often neglected or misunderstood by foreign observers.

Indeed the author manages to make the most of his "outsider" status, constantly comparing the United States to other industrial democracies as well aware of the criticisms levelled at their system by various domestic schools of thought. He is not swept away as so many writers are by the subjects (such as federalism, parties, Congress, pressure-groups) he shows a peevish.

The book is not free from faults, proper names are mis-spelled, Harold Caraway (Maxon's Supreme



The Boston Massacre 1770, a contemporary print.

that, inexperienced notwithstanding, could compel the abject surrender of an imperial force. Whether the cost, as the Franklin letter which closes the book suggests, could be justified in terms of money, misery, and destruction, will never be resolved. Franklin was certain that could not, and one suspects that Professor Wright is also of that opinion. But since war is the record left for the historian to illuminate, the details may here be examined, in their appearances of glory and of shame.

Peter Marshall

Peter Marshall is professor of American history at the University of Manchester.

Charles Ives) are strongly derivative from other recent work. But in its discovery and exposition of material outside the mainstream he has developed some new and rewarding angles. For me, the discussion of literary feminism is best, where the novels of Edith Wharton, Ellen Glasgow and Kate Chopin are supplemented by original insights into the polemic of Charlotte Perkins Gilman (*Women and Economics* 1898) and Gertrude Stein's rambling autobiography (*Living My Life* 1931). There is also a welcome focus on W. E. B. Du Bois, and a revealing new light on Frank Lloyd Wright's famous lecture on "Art and Craft of the Machine" (shown convincingly here to have been originally anything but the modernist manifesto Wright and his disciples later claimed it to be).

Given such a heterogeneous cast of characters it may appear churlish to suggest that there are omissions, but one style of thought does seem damagingly under-represented. Apart from brief references to Henry James's brother William and his Harvard colleague George Santanyana, there is no sustained consideration of American public philosophy during the last period in which it retained the significance thrust upon it by Emerson and the transcendentalists. James, for example, struggled with precisely the dilemmas identified by Conn as salient for his other subjects with an earnest desire to provoke debate on such issues as America's moral claims as an imperialist power. Attention to professional thought might, moreover, have unbalanced the uncharacteristically uncritical way in which Conn makes of pragmatism an epitaph.

Almost half a century ago George Dangerfield punctured the more placid view of Edwardian culture with his *The Strange Death of Liberal England* (1936), moving to the foreground the tension and violence associated with the Irish question, labour and women's suffrage. Conn's survey is similarly sensitive to the turbulence and restlessness of a period of American history which begins with the Haymarket bombing, sees recorded lynchings rise to unprecedented levels, and anticipates the "red scare" of the First World War. Paced by such turbulent and thoughtful Americans, like their British contemporaries, showed ambivalence about the values and prospects of their culture. Conn's thorough and scholarly parade of testimony confirms this general truth, without saying much that is unexpected about where or why the fault lines occurred.

David Watson

Dr Watson is head of the modern studies at Oxford Polytechnic.

# BOOKS

## AMERICAN STUDIES

### Literary reduction

The Marriage of Emily Dickinson: a study of the fascicles  
by William H. Shurr  
Kentucky University Press, \$22.00  
ISBN 0 8131 1499 3

Emily Dickinson holds a peculiar fascination for readers who regard lyric verse as a species of autobiography. Her life appears to have been reclusive and uneventful, yet her poetry is charged with such intense emotion that speculation is rampant as to who was behind the flames. Critics have proffered a bewildering variety of candidates for the role of secret lover: those of a religious persuasion see different poems addressed to God and to Christ; radical feminists have put forward the names of Kate Scott Anthon and Susan Gilbert Dickinson as the objects of lesbian love; while many have opted for a heterosexual reading, the Reverend Charles Wadsworth being the most favoured of a list of nominees that includes Samuel Bowles and Judge Otis Lord.

Dickinson left 1,775 poems at her death, slightly fewer than half being stitched into pamphlets or fascicles. These fascicles were dismantled when editors first published her verse in the 1890s, and it was not until three years ago that R. W. Franklin reconstructed the ordering of their contents. The thesis of the present volume is that the fascicles were compiled by Dickinson to send to her lover, and that they therefore disclose a discontinuous narrative of a straightforwardly autobiographical kind. Read in this light, Professor Shurr suggests, the newly reconstituted fascicle poems show Dickinson to have fallen in love with a clergyman who

advised her during a period of spiritual crisis. Although married, the clergyman returned her affection. Divorce being impossible for a man in his position, he and Dickinson pledged spiritual union, marriage in heaven before parting, they consummated their love; Dickinson conceived, and the pregnancy was aborted. Her life thereafter was a protracted wait in the sometimes wavering hope of reunion after death. Professor Shurr concludes that Wadsworth was the only man of Dickinson's acquaintance whose life accords with this verse chronicle.

As biographical speculation, this thesis is perfectly plausible; though only the discovery of unambiguous evidence, a new cache of letters perhaps, can verify it. In literary terms, the professor's greatest achievement is to have established more fully than heretofore the remarkably high incidence of marriage, separation and reunion scenes in the fascicle poems. His treatment of the pregnancy and abortion motifs is less compelling. At one point, he sets historical evidence of the availability of abortions alongside Dickinson's metaphors of premature death and deduces that she had a pregnancy terminated. One might as easily juxtapose the homicide statistics of the day with Dickinson's use of the word "assassin" and claim to have demonstrated that she was a murderer. Much of the argument is blighted by this sort of reductionism.

Consider the issue of narration. The overwhelming bulk of the poems under discussion simply do not specify who is speaking to whom. Consequently, even those of them that are indisputably addressed to a single addressee are wonderfully open to a multiplicity of interpretations as to the relationship involved: woman to man, woman to woman, man to woman, man to man, woman to deity, man to deity, and so on. For Shurr to insist that texts which studiously avoid disclosing even the genders of their narrators are unmediated authorial utterances is crude and diminishing.

John Osborne

Dr Osborne is lecturer in American studies at the University of Hull.

### The warm south

The Pursuit of Happiness: family and values in Jefferson's Virginia  
by Jan Lewis  
Cambridge University Press, £20.00  
ISBN 0 521 25306 3

After over twenty years' discussion of American slavery, historians of the antebellum South are now beginning to re-examine white society. In 1980, Daniel B. Smith explored planters' family life in a region of eighteenth-century Virginia and Maryland. Rhys Isaac had much to say of family values and attitudes in a Pulitzer Prize-winning account, *The Transformation of Virginia, 1740-1790* (1982). Catherine Clinton has studied plantation mistresses during the period 1780-1835 and James Oakes in 1982 published a general discussion about slaveowners. Where so many young historians rush to fill an obvious gap, Jan Lewis's analysis of family values among literate Virginians from the 1780s to about 1830 understandably recapitulates some already familiar themes, but it nevertheless offers a fresh and lively interpretation of its own.

After casting yet another glance at the mid eighteenth-century gentry's assumptions, Lewis documents (in a chapter on each topic) changing attitudes towards religion, death, worldly success and love. Her central contention, expanding upon Isaac's argument, is that only after the Revolution did Southern whites identify themselves fully with their affective families, reject the "public" sphere as unsatisfying, harsh, even threatening, and express their emotions freely to their intimate friends and kin. Eighteenth-century gentry ideals - self-restraint, optimistic secularism, public rituals and activities, and republican virtue - yielded to privatized and passionate beliefs and conduct. Evangelical religion and commercial expansion wrought this transformation; the latter purchased greater ease, while also creating competitive cold-

tions which those enjoying reasonable affluence often - Lewis would urge, typically - deplored.

The argument is wide-ranging and elusive. Clearly, a phenomenon calls for explanation; a large number of often emotionally frank letters and diaries survive from the early nineteenth century, in contrast with the numerically sparse and emotionally sparsely letters and diaries of the mid eighteenth century. But the possibility that such a phenomenon was related to new conventions of letter-writing, the influence of Romantic literature, and the spread of active literacy is scarcely explored. Smith's planters adopted an affective, family-centric style earlier than Lewis's families, and without experiencing the evangelical revival beginning in 1799-1800; these differences in dating and influence are left unexplained by Lewis.

Nor does her book attempt to add to our nebulous knowledge of the emotional ice-age which apparently froze Virginians' feelings before the mid eighteenth century. One tires of meeting that, typically rich and sadistic snob, William Byrd II, as the exemplar of early eighteenth-century attitudes to love, death, and so forth. At the opposite end of the chronological spectrum, Allison Freheiling's book on constitutional reform in 1831-32 leads us to ask whether Virginians underwent a third transformation in the sixties or so years; for, while family attachments and evangelical emotionality certainly did not wane, participation in public life, political and economic, was, as Freheiling shows, vigorous in 1831-32 and thereafter.

If one would have wished for a more restrained formulation of both general arguments and particular judgments, since the evidence is elusive and the subject difficult to define - one should also emphasize the book's strengths. Religion and the cult of sentiment are handled better than by Smith. Southern women's lives and roles are treated far more subtly than by Clinton. The writing has an enviable and stimulating vitality. And both argument and subject matter have wide ramifications.

Bruce Collins

Dr Collins is lecturer in modern history at the University of Glasgow.

## A sense of risk

Robert Lowell: an introduction to the poetry  
by Mark Rudman  
Columbia University Press, \$26.50  
ISBN 0 231 04672 3

This book is not really a critical introduction but an impressionistic, often innovative, and highly personal account of Lowell's poetry. As a practising poet and translator, Mark Rudman is acutely, even painfully aware of the problems any writer must deal with, and he uses this awareness to achieve flashes of insight into the language and workings of particular poems. His is an essentially intuitive, unstructured approach; he may divide the chapters up chronologically, but each chapter consists of a series of speculative fragments, notes towards an understanding of a writer who (as Rudman points out more than once) was himself uncomfortable with rigidly sequential forms.

It is, too, an approach that is rooted in autobiography. The book begins, for instance, with a recollection of where Rudman was on the day Lowell died: on the bench at Madaket, with a copy of *The Big Sleep* in his pocket. This then shades into an ingenious discussion of Lowell's use of place, particularly the landscapes of his childhood (Madaket is, of course, the setting for "The Quaker Graveyard in Nantucket"), and of the relationship between the arts of detection and poetry. Briefly summarized in this way, this strategy of connecting Lowell's work to Rudman's life may sound forced. Rudman is enough of an artist, however, to make the connections seem natural, and it gives his book something of that quality that he finds especially valuable in Lowell's writing - a unity of voice, the sense that the reader is in the presence of an individual person.

Not that Rudman's approach is without its flaws; since his tendency to rely on moments of revelation rather than a consecutive argument does mean that the reader is unlikely to be convinced by any particular point if he is not won over immediately. Little effort is made to substantiate things in a conventional fashion; one nugget of wisdom is unearthed, described (sometimes, it must be admitted, with irritatingly circular brevity), and then hastily discarded in favour of another. More than once, too, the different snapshot impressions Rudman offers appear to conflict. He tells us, for instance, that Lowell's wordplay acts as a reminder that there is no natural congruence between words and things, and then shortly afterwards insists that if anything Lowell was too literal a writer, clinging "too tenaciously to concrete things" (it may well be possible to reconcile these two views, of Lowell as minimalist or fabulist and Lowell as literalist. The point is, however, that Rudman does not attempt to do so. To be more accurate, the improvisational nature, the slapdash intensity of his approach does not provide him with the opportunity of teasing out the apparent contradictions and perhaps resolving them.

But even allowing for such weaknesses, this is an impressive study. Issues that another, more pedestrian critic might take an entire essay to consider - such as Lowell's habit of reinventing the past while remembering it, or his inclination to see politics as a part of daily life - are handled with a rare ease and facility, a quicksilver wit and delicacy of touch. There are intriguing comparisons, too, with other poets: Lowell's treatment of the sunset, for example, is usefully likened to that of Keats. And through it all there is a feeling of adventure, the sense of a mind willing to take chances, venture guesses, and (when necessary) confess ignorance.

In his opening chapter, Rudman quotes a line from one of Lowell's last poems - "Risk was my métier" - as a way of summing up what he sees as the poet's willingness to confront the world head on. That same line could well serve as the epigraph of this book: in a way that is sadly unusual in recent criticism, presents the act of reading as a kind of gamble, a hazardous and not always successful raid on the unknown.

Richard Gray

Dr Gray is reader in the department of literature at the University of Essex.

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For further information, please contact the Registrar, University of Cape Town, Rondebosch, 7700, South Africa. Tel: 021 650 3000.

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The University of Cape Town annually invites applications for postdoctoral research fellowships to be held at the University of Cape Town. The fellowships are available for a maximum of twelve months (p.a.). Successful candidates from abroad will receive an airfare grant up to a maximum of R2 000. (Some fellowships are available to South African citizens with intention to pursue a research fellowship in their field of research.) Preference will be given to fully qualified research fellows who have completed a PhD or equivalent and who have published research papers in their field of research. The fellowships are available for a maximum of twelve months (p.a.). Successful candidates from abroad will receive an airfare grant up to a maximum of R2 000. (Some fellowships are available to South African citizens with intention to pursue a research fellowship in their field of research.) Preference will be given to fully qualified research fellows who have completed a PhD or equivalent and who have published research papers in their field of research. Applications must include full details of the applicant's research programme in addition to a full curriculum vitae. The University is not to discriminate in the appointment of fellows on grounds of sex, race, colour, or national origin. Fellows upon whose duties are heavy and can be engaged on a special circumstances of each candidate. Applications should be addressed to the Head, Research Administration, University of Cape Town, Private Bag Rondebosch, 7700, South Africa. 50 or less than 10 by 10 June 1984. The first round of appointments will be completed by the end of August 1984.

### overseas continued Posts overseas China

### Senior Lecturers and Lecturers in English as a Foreign Language at Universities and Teacher Training Institutes in Peking and provincial centres

British Teams of 2 or 3 lecturers engaged in projects to provide language improvement and methodology classes for Chinese secondary and tertiary level teachers; EAP and study skills instruction for postgraduates. Some senior posts will include teaching of applied linguistics, syllabus design and materials production. Qualifications: Candidates must be British citizens, holding a first degree in English or other Modern Language, postgraduate TEFL qualification, minimum 5 years' relevant TEFL experience for Senior Lecturers and 2 years' experience for Lecturers. Salary: Yuan 500-700 per month plus annual sterling subsidy of £5,202-£5,418 (3,000 Yuan = £1). Benefits: Free accommodation, air fares, installation grant, superannuation contribution. Contract: One year (renewable) from September 1984, guaranteed by the British Council. Closing date for applications: 15 March 1984. Reference: B4 B 37-39TH.

### Hungary 2 Lecturers in English for Eotvos Lorand University, Budapest

Kosuth Lajos University, Debrecen. Duties: To teach English as a foreign language to Hungarian undergraduates, 18-22 years. Qualifications: Candidates must be British nationals, between 25-35, with a British degree in English or a Modern Language plus a diploma or equivalent qualification in the Teaching of English as a Foreign Language and a minimum of 5 years' teaching experience for Budapest and two years for Debrecen. Single candidates are preferred. An MA in Linguistics or related subject is useful. Salary: 4,400-5,100 forints per month, tax free, paid locally. (£1 = 65.35 forints). Sterling subsidy 24,188 pa paid in Britain. Benefits: Free accommodation, superannuation contribution, return fares, baggage. Contract: One year local contract, renewable, starting September 1984. Reference: B4 B 34-35T.

### Czechoslovakia 3 Lecturers in English to teach in the English Departments of: Charles University, Prague Comenius University, Bratislava Palacky University, Olomouc

Duties: To teach English as a foreign language to Czechoslovakian undergraduates, 18-22 years. Qualifications: Candidates must be British nationals, between 25-40 with a British Arts degree, preferably in English or Modern Languages, and a diploma or equivalent qualification in TEFL. At least two years' relevant teaching experience is essential. Single candidates are preferred and some. For further details and an application form, please write, quoting the post reference number to: Overseas Educational Appointments Department, The British Council, 90-91, Tottenham Court Road, London W1P 0DT.

### General Vacancies

AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR FOREIGN STUDY (AIFS) ASSISTANT DEAN OF STUDENTS. Interesting, rewarding job looking after American students studying in London. Pastoral and organisational skills essential. Salary £25,000 plus accommodation and meals, plus nine weeks holiday. Applicants should be available by June 1 or August 15th. Apply in writing with c.v. to: Anne Waters, AIFS, 37 Queens Gate, London SW7 5HR. Tel: 01-881 2733. (14285)

### DEAN SCHOOL OF NURSING AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

This position has been created as part of the College's commitment to basic nurse education and the introduction of a Diploma in Applied Science (Nursing) course in 1985. The existing Diploma in Health Administration will also be offered. The Dean will establish the basic nurse education course, direct the Diploma in Health Administration course and ensure the effective academic and administrative functioning of the School. This will include membership of various committees and the development of relationships with the Health industry and related organisations. Applicants should be qualified at post-graduate level in Nursing and Health Administration. Experience in tertiary level teaching and management experience will be well regarded.

### DEAN SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION AND LIBERAL STUDIES

This School offers five courses - Bachelor of Arts in Communication (Journalism, Public Relations and Theatre/Media strands), Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies, Associate Diploma in Creative Arts (Visual Arts, Music and Recreation strands) and Associate Diploma in Arts. The School has 30 staff. Teaching facilities include an FM Radio Station (2MCE-FM), a colour television studio, the Little Theatre and various other studios. The Dean will ensure the effective academic and administrative functioning of the School, encourage and develop entrepreneurial activity, participate as a member of College Committees, and maintain close relationships with industry. Applicants should have strong academic qualifications and experience in at least one of the disciplines offered by the School. Experience in tertiary level teaching and management experience will be well regarded. Further information: Dr Wayne Clarke, Deputy Principal - (063) 33 2317. Appointments will be offered for 4 years as Dean (salary \$A46,841 p.a.) then for a further 4 years or to a tenured senior academic post (salary \$A38,820 p.a.). APPLICATIONS including names and addresses of three (3) referees should be sent to: The Registrar (Staff Appointments) Mitchell College of Advanced Education, Bathurst NSW 2795 Australia. by March 30, 1984. 46072

### Secondary Education

The Incorporated Froebel Educational Institute, Roehampton, London, S.W.15.

The Governing Body invite applications for the post of:

### HEAD OF IBSTOCK PLACE SCHOOL

The post will become vacant on 1st September, 1984. There are presently 300 children in the age range 3 to 16 years attending the co-educational school. Applicants should be university graduates. Salary according to qualified Head Teacher Group 6 plus London Allowance (Inner Area). Residential accommodation negotiable. Further details will be sent on request to the Secretary, The Incorporated Froebel Educational Institute, 'Templeton', 118 Priory Lane, London, SW15 5JW. (14244)

### Colleges of Technology

Education Committee NORTH-WEST KENT COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY

### Head of Mechanical Technology Grade 3

Applications are invited for the post of Head of Department of Mechanical Technology at Grade 3. The person appointed will have sound industrial and teaching experience, a degree or equivalent qualification and an interest in developing education and training appropriate to modern mechanical engineering practice with a proper regard to computer applications and electro-mechanical developments. At present the department provides technicians courses up to and including HTEC. Further details and forms of application can be obtained from: The Principal, North West Kent College of Technology, Miskin Road, Dartford, Kent DA1 2LU. Tel: Dartford 25471. (14249)

### KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

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